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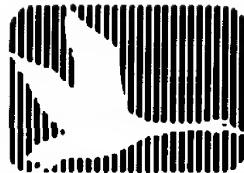
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Cover: Thick-billed Murre (1997-423). February 26, 1995. Atlantic Ocean, east of Ocean City, Maryland. Photo by Mark L. Hoffman.



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SECOND REPORT OF THE MARYLAND/DC RECORDS COMMITTEE

MARK L. HOFFMAN AND PHIL DAVIS

This is the second report of the Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC), a committee of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). Peterjohn and Davis (1996) described in detail the history and function of the committee and provided a summary of all 303 committee decisions from its inception in 1982 through 1995. This article summarizes the 102 final decisions reached between 1996 and March 1998.

To briefly summarize, the purpose of the committee is to: (1) review reports of unusual sightings within its area of coverage; (2) determine the adequacy of documentation of such reports; (3) maintain a state list of birds for Maryland; (4) maintain a district list of birds for the District of Columbia; (5) publish periodic reports of its findings; and (6) maintain in a file accessible to interested persons the primary reports, the deliberations of the committee and, in some instances, opinions received from outside experts and/or copies of some of the relevant literature. By these steps the committee aims to convert reports of sightings into documented records that can be used for scientific studies of bird distribution and patterns of avian vagrancy.

The MD/DCRC consists of nine voting members, a chair and a non-voting secretary. Voting members serve three-year terms. The voting members review the documentation submitted for each report and assess whether or not this information adequately supports the claimed identification. Reports may receive multiple circulations among committee members depending upon the number of votes to "accept" or "not accept" a given record. The committee has a stated "Goals, Policies, Criteria for Acceptance, and Procedures" which is available from the Secretary and details the functions of the committee. Committee members during the final review of the records summarized here were Robert Dixon, Mary Gustafson, Mark Hoffman, Robert Hilton, David Holmes, Marshall Iliff, Ottavio Janni, Gail Mackiernan, Willem Maane, Harvey Mudd, Robert Norton, Michael O'Brien, Paul O'Brien, Bruce Peterjohn, Paul Pisano, Sue Ricciardi, and Mary Ann Todd. Bruce Peterjohn and Harvey Mudd were chairs of the committee during this time, and Phil Davis served as secretary.

Participation by the birding community is vital to the success of the MD/DCRC. Reports should be sent to Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary, 2549 Vale Court, Davidsonville, MD 21035. The list of species reviewed is available from the Secretary or on the MOS website (<http://www.MDBirds.org>).

In the following accounts, abbreviations are used for Maryland's counties: ALGY, Allegany; ANAR, Anne Arundel; BALT, Baltimore; CLVT, Calvert; CRLN, Caroline; CARR, Carroll; CECL, Cecil; CHAS, Charles; DORC, Dorchester; FRDK, Frederick; GARR, Garrett; HARF, Harford; HWRD, Howard; KENT, Kent; MONT, Montgomery; PGEO, Prince George's; QUAN, Queen Anne's; STMA, St. Mary's; SMST, Somerset; TLBT, Talbot; WASH, Washington; WICO, Wicomico; WORC, Worcester. Additionally, * indicates that photographs were submitted for a record; # indicates that audio recordings were submitted for a record; + indicates a record of a specimen. The committee reference number for each record is included in parentheses.

Observer abbreviations are also included within the parentheses. All individuals who provided written descriptions, photographs, or other documentation to the committee are cited for each record. The observer who provided the most thorough documentation for a record is generally cited first; this observer may or may not have initially discovered the bird. For many records, the person who discovered the bird may not have provided any documentation to the committee, while for some records, the identity of the discoverer is not even known to the committee. Our intention is not to deny recognition to observers who discover rare birds, but only to indicate those individuals who provided information to the committee. The term *et al.* is used for reports where multiple observers were known to have been present but only the cited individual(s) actually provided documentation to the committee.

In the following accounts, comments on identification, age, and sex are the responsibility of the authors, but are usually based on comments made by committee members during review of the report. All taxonomy follows the Seventh Edition of the AOU Check-list (1998). Information and comments from Peterjohn and Davis (1996) have been repeated where appropriate.

CHANGES IN RECORD NUMBERING SYSTEM

After the first MD/DCRC report (Peterjohn and Davis, 1996), the committee converted its report and record numbering system to deal with the "Year 2000" automation problem. This problem focuses on the use of two-digit database fields to represent years and the ambiguity introduced by the year 2000, where the two-digit year "00" cannot be determined to uniquely represent either 1900 or 2000.

Previous System: Under the previous committee system, records and reports took one of the following two forms:

Maryland Reports: Maryland reports and records were represented by a control number format: "96-04," where:

96 = the year the report was placed into review in the MD/DCRC
(i.e., 1996)

04 = a sequential number of the reports placed into circulation that year
(i.e., this was the fourth report to circulate in 1996).

District of Columbia Reports: DC reports and records were represented by the example: "DC012," where "012" represents the 12th DC decision ever rendered by the MD/DCRC. DC reports and records did not carry a year of first circulation in the control number.

New System: Under the revised MD/DCRC numbering system, a consistent format is now used for both Maryland and DC items. Beginning in 1997, all reports received and record decisions now follow a consistent format, e.g., "1997-031."

Year: Under this format, the year (i.e., 1997) reflects the year in which the report was received by the MD/DCRC. All unnumbered reports in the committee's queue were assigned 1997 numbers. Previously, these reports carried an "XX" two-digit year field designation, meaning that they were waiting to begin review, at which time they would have been assigned a two-digit year designation under the old numbering system. Also in 1997, because of extensive research and efforts by several of the committee's members, the MD/DCRC officially "received" (i.e., logged-in) many old and historical reports gleaned from researching past issues of *Maryland Birdlife*, *American Birds*, *Audubon Naturalist*, etc.). These all were logged in with "1997" numbers.

Sequence Number: The last three digits of the control number now represent the sequential number of this report as received by the MD/DCRC within the specified year (in the example, 1997-031, this is the 31st report received by the committee in 1997).

"State" Designation: No distinction is now made in the nomenclature system to differentiate MD and DC reports, since this "state" information is already contained as a field within each record in the database. Reports and records are typically presented in a form where the jurisdiction (MD or DC) is appended to the front of the report or record, such as "MD/1997-031." As a second example, DC/1998-004 represents the 4th report submitted to the MD/DCRC in 1998, and in this case, it happens to be a DC report.

Previous System to New System Translation: Old MD/DCRC records, for example "96-04," can easily be directly translated into the new form "1996-004." The year is now presented as a full four-digit field and the sequence number is simply expanded from two to three digits. Note, that under the earlier system, DC records did not have years embedded in the ID field. Therefore, under the new system, DC reports placed into review prior to 1997 are shown in the form "DC/0000-012" (i.e., no year), corresponding to record number "DC012" under the old system.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

This section includes all records accepted by the MD/DCRC between the publication of Peterjohn and Davis (1996) and March 1998.

Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*

Assateague Island, WORC, MD, April 24, 1994–May 12, 1994 (*MHo, *GJ, et al.; MD1995-026); Eastern Neck NWR, KENT, MD, November 24, 1995–November 27, 1995 (*MI, et al.; MD1996-029).

These are the third and fourth records of Western Grebe in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. Both individuals were photographed and the photos clearly eliminated the similar Clark's Grebe (*A. clarkii*).

All *Aechmophorus* grebes in Maryland should be carefully identified and documented to determine species. Critical examination of the head pattern and bill color must be made. Birds intermediate in plumage between Western and Clark's Grebes do occur (Storer and Nuechterlein 1985, 1992; Eckert 1993).

These records are consistent with the Western Grebe's status as a rare migrant/winter visitor to the eastern United States (Storer and Nuechterlein 1992).

American White Pelican *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Blackwater NWR, DORC, MD, February 28, 1970–April 9, 1970 (LRh, *WJ, et al.; MD1995-004); Havre de Grace, HARF, MD, July 23, 1987–August 14, 1987 (*AB; MD1996-001); Assateague Is, WORC, MD, September 12, 1992 (BO, et al.; MD1996-002); Jug Bay, PGEO/ANAR, MD, May 26, 1994–May 28, 1994 (*GK; MD1996-003).

These are the first records of American White Pelican in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. In each instance, documentation was sufficient to eliminate other bird species, including non-native species of white pelicans. Photos of both the Blackwater (Rhodes 1970) and the Havre de Grace (Armistead 1987) birds have been published.

Throughout the world, there are six species of large white pelicans with varying degrees of black on the primaries and secondaries. At least one of these species, the Pink-backed Pelican (*P. rufescens*), has occurred in Maryland as a zoo escapee (Southworth and Southworth 1992a, 1992b). Any large white pelican discovered in Maryland needs to be critically examined, particularly the pattern of black on the flight feathers, to make a correct species identification. Harrison (1983 and 1987) provides good criteria for separating the white pelicans.

Despite its annual occurrence in nearby Virginia (Kain 1987), the American White Pelican remains a very rare species in Maryland.

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*

National Arboretum, DC, DC, August 11, 1960–August 14, 1960 (*MD, et al.; DC1997-439); Lake Merle, FRDK, MD, April 9, 1995–April 25, 1995 (SSu, *DH, *SY, et al.; MD1995-028); Patuxent WRC – North Tract, ANAR, MD, May 27, 1996–May 29, 1996 (BP, MG, POs, et al.; MD1997-418); Town Hill, ALGY, MD, August 31, 1996 (JP, RKi; MD1997-447); Town Hill, ALGY, MD, September 10, 1996 (JP; MD1997-450).

Two prior records of Anhinga had been accepted by the MD/DCRC in Maryland and none in the District of Columbia. All of these records were well documented with photographs or sketches. The DC bird was photographed (Donald 1961), while the Lake Merle individual was seen by scores of observers and photographs even appeared in local newspapers.

There has been a rash of Anhinga sightings in Maryland (and the northeast) since 1995 and additional reports are under review by the Committee. Other out-of-range records during the spring-summer of 1995 include an individual in Delaware (April 23, Boyle et al. 1995), two in Pennsylvania (June 6, Paxton et al. 1995) and multiple sightings in northern Illinois (late-April, Brock 1995). During 1996, other extralimital records in the northeast were made in New Jersey (four sightings, late April to June, Boyle et al. 1996,

Paxton et al. 1996), Pennsylvania (May 15, Boyle et al. 1996), Virginia (multiple sightings, Iliff 1996), and Connecticut (September 14, Ellison and Martin 1997).

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*

Ocean City, WORC, MD, April 28, 1980 (*RRo; MD1996-022).

This is the first record of Magnificent Frigatebird in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. Previously, two records of frigatebird (sp.) had been accepted by the MD/DCRC (one in Maryland and one in the District of Columbia). Interestingly, the prior Maryland record was on April 30th.

The color photographs accompanying this record show an immature frigatebird with features eliminating all other species of *Fregata*. The committee has not been willing to assume any vagrant frigatebird in Maryland is a Magnificent Frigatebird. Although this is perhaps the most likely species, there are records of vagrant Great Frigatebirds (*F. minor*) from North America. It was fortunate that this individual was well photographed and in immature plumage, as positive identification of many frigatebird plumages may not be possible under most circumstances. Future frigatebird records, which can be expected, should be critically studied and photographed if possible. See Howell (1994) and Harrison (1983 and 1987) for information on frigatebird identification.

Roseate Spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*

Smith Island, SMST, MD, July 11, 1996–August 23, 1996 (*MHrm, DJo, MHrr; MD1997-455).

This is the second record of Roseate Spoonbill in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The prior record was from the exact same location in 1979 (Baugh 1979). The photos and description of this bird left no question as to its identity and a photo appeared in *Field Notes* (51:35). As noted by Peterjohn and Davis (1996), spoonbill populations have been slowly increasing and extralimital records have been noted north to the lower Great Lakes region.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*

Potts Point, CLVT, MD, June 6, 1993 (*AMa; MD1995-036); Tuckahoe State Park, CRLN, MD, May 11, 1996 (*PT, *MMac; MD1996-024).

These are the first records of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck in Maryland. Both records were documented with excellent photographs, clearly eliminating any other species, including non-native or hybrid waterfowl. The committee considered the possibility that these birds may have been of non-wild origin, but no evidence supported this position. The Potts Point record involved a flock of 12 individuals. Such a large flock would be exceptional for captive-raised birds, but somewhat expected for a wild flock of this highly social and gregarious whistling-duck. The Tuckahoe State Park bird was a single unbanded individual. Although the lack of a band is not definitive for wild origin, it is supportive. The expanding breeding population and increased number of vagrant reports also suggest wild origin for these records and the expectation of future Maryland records.

Other extralimital records of Black-bellied Whistling-Duck during the summer of 1993 included a flock of ten in Quebec (June 6–12, Yank and Aubry 1993), and a flock of nine in Ontario (June 17–July 7, possibly same birds as in Quebec, Ridout 1993).

Fulvous Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*

West Ocean City, WORC, MD, July 19, 1961–December 2, 1961 (CHo, *SD, et al.; MD1996-039); Berlin, WORC, MD, February 16, 1975 (LMa; MD1996-040); Remington Farms, KENT, MD, November 2, 1984 (*JWhi; MD1996-041); Point Lookout, STMA, MD, November 11, 1985 (*RW; MD1996-042); Nottingham, PGEO, MD, November 19, 1986 (+GK; MD1996-043).

Previously, the MD/DCRC had accepted two records of Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Maryland. Two of the current records involved large flocks, with 61 reported at Remington Farms and 25-30 at Point Lookout. The other records were of single individuals. Although this species is very erratic in its wanderings, there does seem to be a seasonal peak in late autumn, as demonstrated by the three November records. The two previously accepted records were in November as well. All these records were in different years, so multiple sightings of the same individuals were unlikely.

Ross's Goose *Chen rossii*

Blackwater NWR, DORC, MD, October 28, 1991 (*MO; MD1992-035); Snow Hill, WORC, MD, October 20, 1992–November 27, 1992 (MO; MD1994-040).

As discussed by Peterjohn and Davis (1996), the field identification of Ross's Goose originally posed problems for the committee, as this species expanded from its largely western range to the East Coast (Ryder and Alisauskas 1995). It is now clear that small numbers of Ross's Geese winter in the large Snow Goose (*C. caerulescens*) flocks of the Delmarva Peninsula. The committee no longer reviews records of Ross's Goose from the Eastern Shore.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Bay Ridge, ANAR, MD, February 6, 1979–February 11, 1979 (*MHrm, et al.; MD1996-014); Jefferson Patterson Park, CLVT, MD, March 18, 1997–March 20, 1997 (*TB, PC, PO, *MHo, et al.; MD1997-496).

These are the first Tufted Duck records in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The 1979 individual was trapped and banded on 6 February 1979 during a waterfowl banding operation by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel. It was also reported “in company with a female of the same species” (Ringler 1979), but no documentation was available for a second individual. Both accepted records were of photographed males.

The committee considered the potential that these individuals were not of wild origin, but their occurrence matches the pattern of vagrancy seen in this species in the northeastern United States (Mlodinow and O'Brien 1996). During the spring of 1997, there was an apparent influx of Tufted Ducks into eastern North America. In reference to the records from the Atlantic provinces of Canada, where the species is most regular in the northeast, Maybank (1997) commented that “oddly, there were many more Tufted Duck reports away from Newfoundland,” where the species is most frequent. Reports came from Newfoundland (two birds), New Brunswick (four), and Nova Scotia (nine, where the species is “now almost routine”). Other Canadian records included Quebec (one, April 22, Bannon and David 1997) and Ontario (three, March 29–May 4, Ridout 1997). U.S. reports were from Massachusetts (one wintering, one April 15–16, Perkins 1997), Connecticut (one wintering, Perkins 1997), New York (two wintering, Boyle et al. 1997), and Kentucky (one, March and April, Brock 1997).

Additionally, hybrids between Tufted Ducks and other species of *Aythya* are known, and the committee considered this potential, but the observed characteristics of both individuals were believed to eliminate hybrid origin. Harris et al. (1989) and Madge and Burn (1988) should be consulted for a thorough review of the characteristics of Tufted Duck and its potential pairings with other waterfowl species. For males, close attention must be given to bill-tip pattern, bill-and-head shape, tuft shape and length, overall size and structure, eye color, back and flank color, and wingstripe (Harris et al. 1989).

Barrow's Goldeneye *Bucephala islandica*

Patuxent Naval Air Station, STMA, MD, December 29, 1994 (+RZ, *WM; MD1995-029); Patuxent River Naval Air Station, STMA, MD, February 28, 1996–March 3, 1996 (PC, KR, HM, PO, *MHo, et al.; MD1996-045); Patuxent River Naval Air Station, STMA, MD, January 22, 1997–March 1, 1997 (*PC, *KR, et al.; MD1997-630); St. George's Island, STMA, MD, February 7, 1997–February 9, 1997 (PC, *JS; MD1997-495).

These are the first records of Barrow's Goldeneye in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The December 29, 1994 record consisted of the wing of a female donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of their annual waterfowl harvest survey. Identified after-the-fact, follow-up research allowed determination of the exact location where the bird was shot. Carney (1983, 1992) provides

invaluable information on species, sex and age determination of waterfowl wings. Identification of female goldeneyes, in particular, is very difficult (Tobish 1986, Madge and Burn 1988), and hybrids are known (Martin and DiLabio 1994).

Interestingly, the second and third record came from the same locality the next two winters. Documented by photos and written descriptions, the presence of at least one male Barrow's Goldeneye was conclusively demonstrated. Special thanks are due to the staff of Patuxent Naval Air Station for making arrangements to allow many birders to see this rare species on a restricted military base.

The combination of four records in Southern Maryland is unprecedented for this latitude in the eastern United States.

Masked Duck *Nomonyx dominicus*

Elkton—Elk River Marshes, CECL, MD, Sept. 8, 1905 (+JCS, CHou, et al.; MD1997-492).

This is the only record of Masked Duck in Maryland; it was shot by a J. C. Smith while he was rail hunting on the "Elk River marshes" in 1905 (Houghton 1906). The Committee found the photographs of the specimen to be diagnostic of an adult male Masked Duck. Other reports and records of historical vagrancy to the northeast (Mlodinow and O'Brien



Fig. 1. Barrow's Goldeneye (1997-630). February 23, 1997. Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's Co., MD. Kyle Rambo.

1996, Lockwood 1997) and the fact that this species is rarely known to be kept in captivity contributed to the conclusion that this was a wild bird.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

Blackwater NWR, DORC, MD, May 31, 1972–June 11, 1972 (WJ, *PGD, et al.; MD1996-004); LaVale, ALGY, MD, August 17, 1974–September 19, 1974 (KH, *JP, *RJ, et al.; MD1996-005); Catonsville, BALT, MD, June 10, 1992 (EBo; MD1996-006); Laurel, PGEO, MD, April 24, 1993 (ABa, PSt; MD1996-008); Seneca Creek State Park, MONT, MD, May 14, 1993 (RNo; MD1996-009); Ft. Smallwood Park, ANAR, MD, April 22, 1995 (SR, RRin, COR; MD1996-010).

The MD/DCRC had previously accepted two records of American Swallow-tailed Kite from Maryland. These six additional records continue the pattern of late April–early June vagrancy in this species. The record from LaVale is particularly noteworthy for its location, time of year and duration of stay.

Yellow Rail *Coturnicops noveboracensis*

Potomac, MONT, MD, May 14, 1992 (JJ; MD1994-032).

This record was exceptional in that the bird was flushed from a tall patch of grass while the observer was mowing a somewhat overgrown suburban lawn. Despite the remarkable circumstances, the committee found the account clearly addressed all the critical field marks of a Yellow Rail (e.g. dark color of wings and mantle, white secondary patch, flight style) and specifically eliminated all other North American small rails. The true status of Yellow Rail in Maryland remains to be determined, due to the species' very secretive nature (Bookhout 1995).

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*

Madonna, HARF, MD, April 11, 1982–April 12, 1982 (DK, *JKi, et al.; MD1995-012).

Records of Sandhill Cranes have increased dramatically in the Mid-Atlantic region over the past 15 years, as the eastern population has increased and expanded its breeding range (Hoffman 1989, Tebbel and Ankeny 1982). The committee now reviews only those reports of Sandhill Cranes west of the Piedmont. This record was well documented with photographs.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Baltimore Canyon, WORC, MD, August 18, 1996 (*DC, *MO, et al.; MD1997-448).

This is the second record of Long-tailed Jaeger in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC for Maryland. A bird in juvenile plumage, it was well documented by photographs, sketches and written details.

The true status of this species in Maryland remains to be determined. Despite the many pelagic trips out of Ocean City over the past 25 years, there are very few reports of Long-tailed Jaegers and only the two accepted records. To our south, in North Carolina, the species is much more regularly seen (Lee 1986, 1989). It is possible most Long-tailed Jaegers occur farther offshore, outside of the range of the normal day-long pelagic trips.

Jaeger identification, particularly from a moving boat, is challenging, but excellent new references, such as Olsen and Larsson (1997) provide guidance that was unavailable until recently.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Hains Point, DC, DC, April 5, 1996 (OJ; DC1997-414).

The committee felt that this record clearly documented DC's first confirmed Little Gull. Although regular along the Atlantic Coast, and at certain gull concentration points in the Chesapeake Bay region, the Little Gull is otherwise unknown as a vagrant on the Piedmont or farther west, except for this record and at Conowingo Dam in Harford and Cecil counties, Maryland.

Mew (Common) Gull *Larus canus canus*

Conowingo Dam, HARF/CECL, MD, January 22, 1994 (BP, et al.; MD1995-033).

This constitutes the first accepted record of Mew (Common) Gull in Maryland. The committee found the details of the report, particularly the tail pattern, sufficient to establish this as a first basic plumaged Mew (Common) Gull. In first basic plumage, the European form of the Mew Gull, *L. c. canus* (= Common Gull) is readily separable from the western U.S. form of the Mew Gull, *L. c. brachyrhynchos*. East coast records have pertained to both forms.

First winter Ring-billed and Mew (Common) Gulls present a considerable identification challenge, and detailed study of a suspected individual would be needed to confirm an identification. While the identification of these species has been discussed in considerable detail by Lauro and Spencer (1980), Grant (1986), Harris et al. (1999), Lewington et al. (1991), and Tove (1993), much remains to be learned about them. Unfortunately, much of the relevant literature has a distinct European bias, concentrating on how to differentiate a lone Ring-billed Gull from many Mew (Common) Gulls, the reverse of the situation faced on this side of the Atlantic.

California Gull *Larus californicus*

Georgetown Reservoir, DC, DC, January 15, 1993–January 16, 1993 (*OJ; DC1997-091); Laytonsville Landfill, MONT, MD, January 23, 1993 (GM, et al.; MD1997-093); West Ocean City, WORC, MD, November 28, 1994 (*MO; MD1997-249); Laytonsville Landfill, MONT, MD, January 12, 1995 (OJ; MD1997-295); Conowingo Dam, HARF/CECL, MD, January 28, 1995 (ESc, et al.; MD1997-285); Hart-Miller Island, BALT, MD, October 26, 1996 (ESc, RB; MD1997-456).

The MD/DCRC had previously accepted three records of California Gull in Maryland. The increased interest in "gull watching" in recent years has undoubtedly contributed to the increased number of records of this species. Additionally, better information is available to assist the patient observer in the criteria used to identify this western species (Grant 1986, Vanderpoel 1997). Any reports of California Gull should include a complete description of the bird and comparisons to individuals of the common species. Reports of this species in the eastern U.S. have increased in recent years, perhaps an artifact of observer interest and knowledge (Winkler 1996).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Atlantic Ocean, WORC, MD, August 1, 1992 (MO, *BPa, et al.; MD1994-026).

This is the first record of Arctic Tern in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. Although perhaps more likely as a spring migrant, it appears a small number of non-breeding birds (in first alternate plumage) may summer off the mid-Atlantic coast (M. Hoffman, pers. obs.). This record was well documented with photographs and written descriptions.

Convincing records of Arctic Tern have been difficult to obtain for Maryland (Peterjohn and Davis 1996). Many records from spring pelagic trips appear to lack any documentation and are not amenable to committee review. Excellent references on *Sterna* tern identification include Harris et al. (1989), Kaufman (1990), and Olsen and Larsson (1995).

Common Murre *Uria aalge*

Ocean City Inlet, WORC, MD, December 29, 1976–December 30, 1976 (*RRo; MD1995-013); Atlantic Ocean, WORC, MD, January 16, 1977 (RRo; MD1997-236); Atlantic Ocean, WORC, MD, March 12, 1994 (*GJ, PO, et al.; MD1997-180); Atlantic Ocean, WORC, MD, February 25, 1995 (MO; MD1997-422).

These are the first records of Common Murre in Maryland accepted by MD/DCRC. Despite the many winter pelagic trips out of Ocean City over the past 25 years, murre records have been difficult to document and identify to species. The first record, in 1976, was of a bird in the Ocean City Inlet and a photograph of this bird appeared on the cover of Maryland Birdlife (Rowlett 1977). The other records were of birds observed from boats on offshore trips. Given the numerous records of the Razorbill, and even the Atlantic Puffin, it certainly appears the Common Murre is quite rare at our latitude.

Thick-billed Murre *Uria lomvia*

Franklintown Road, BALT, MD, March 6, 1962–March 7, 1962 (HB, et al.; MD1995-006); Assateague Island, WORC, MD, January 9, 1977 (*RRo, et al.; MD1997-237); Atlantic Ocean, WORC, MD, February 26, 1995 (*MHo, *JS, MO; MD1997-423); Atlantic Ocean, WORC, MD, February 26, 1995 (*MHo, MO; MD1997-297).

These are the first records of Thick-billed Murre in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The first record was of a storm-blown individual, found grounded on a Baltimore City street (Brackbill 1962). The 1977 individual was observed (and photographed) from the north end of Assateague Island (Rowlett 1977). The 1995 records were of two different birds observed and well photographed on a pelagic trip off Ocean City.

As noted above under Common Murre, despite the many winter pelagic trips out of Ocean City over the past 25 years, documented records of either murre species are very few. It is clear these species are quite rare off Maryland's coast.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Millington, KENT, MD, November 3, 1975 (+DLo, RD; MD1996-017).

This is the only record of Groove-billed Ani for Maryland. The bird was found dead and the specimen preserved. Groove-billed Ani has a considerable pattern of vagrancy throughout the United States, although there are extralimital records of the Smooth-billed Ani as well (Balch 1979, McLean et al. 1995). Identification of anis is not always straight-forward, particularly with immature birds (e.g., immature Groove-billed Anis lack grooves on their bills). References such as Balch (1979) should be consulted.



Fig. 2. Arctic Tern (1994-026). August 1, 1992. Atlantic Ocean, east of Ocean City, Maryland.
Brian Patteson.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker *Picoides borealis*

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, PGEO, MD, May 11, 1974 (*BMe, MPe; MD1996-018).

This exceptional record was documented with photographs (Meanley and Perry 1974). Well removed from the closest populations in southeastern Virginia, this species was formerly a rare resident of the Lower Eastern Shore (Stewart and Robbins 1958). Future claims of this species in Maryland must carefully exclude aberrant individuals of the two common *Dendrocopos* species.

Ash-throated Flycatcher *Myiarchus cinerascens*

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, STMA, MD, December 18, 1994–January 3, 1995 (*KR, *MI, *#JS, *MHo, et al.; MD1996-013).

This is the second record of Ash-throated Flycatcher in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. Although the committee does not assume any small, pale, early winter *Myiarchus* in Maryland is an Ash-throated Flycatcher, the documentation with this record eliminated all other *Myiarchus* species, including Nutting's Flycatcher (see Howell and Webb 1995, Pyle 1997). Future records should be equally well documented, to eliminate several similar species. Detailed study of the wings and tail must be made.

Ash-throated Flycatcher shows a clear pattern of early winter occurrence along the East Coast (Murphy 1982).

Bewick's Wren *Thryomanes bewickii*

Violette's Lock, MONT, MD, May 1, 1993 (BP; MD1996-019).

Although the Bewick's Wren formerly was a fairly common breeder in western Maryland (Stewart and Robbins 1958), recent records of this species in Maryland have been exceptionally few (Robbins 1996). To promote adequate documentation of current reports, the MD/DCRC added this species to its review list.

The committee felt that this was an exceptional description that addressed all the salient field marks and clearly separated a Bewick's Wren from a dull juvenile Carolina Wren.



Fig. 3. Ash-throated Flycatcher (1996-013). December 28, 1994. Patuxent River Naval Air Station, St. Mary's Co., MD. Kyle Rambo.



Fig. 4. Townsend's Solitaire (1996-027). March 26, 1996. Street, Harford Co., MD. Mark L. Hoffman.

Townsend's Solitaire *Myadestes townsendi*

Street, HARF, MD, March 22, 1996–April 13, 1996 (DBow, *GJ, *MHo, et al.; MD1996-027).

This is the only record of Townsend's Solitaire in Maryland. Given the numerous records of this species in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada, the species was not unexpected.

The committee commends the observers for the diagnostic photographs and excellent written accounts (Bowers 1996). The hospitality of the landowner is gratefully acknowledged as well.

Varied Thrush *Ixoreus naevius*

Ashton, MONT, MD, December 31, 1965–January 20, 1966 (*BG; MD1995-002).

Previously, the MD/DCRC had accepted two records of Varied Thrush from Maryland, although this record predates both of those. Photographs in the documentation for this record clearly substantiates the identification as a Varied Thrush. Despite this species' normal range in the Pacific Northwest and along the Pacific coast, it is a regular, albeit rare, visitor to New England, the upper Great Lakes, and southern Canada (Keith 1968). Records from the middle Atlantic Coast are much fewer. Like most records, including the prior two from Maryland, this bird was frequenting a suburban feeder (Getchell 1966).

Sage Thrasher *Oreoscoptes montanus*

Assateague, WORC, MD, October 24, 1971 (*RRO; MD1995-015).

This is the only record of Sage Thrasher in Maryland. The excellent detailed description (Rowlett 1971, 1972) and accompanying photograph establish this bird as a Sage Thrasher and eliminate all other thrasher species.

Sage Thrasher is one of the rarest western vagrants to the East Coast. Its main breeding ranges lies west of the Rocky Mountains, in the arid Great Basin region. East Coast records are clustered in October and this record is typical in that regard (Bull 1964, Kain 1987, Veit and Petersen 1993).

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

National Arboretum, DC, January 14, 1972–March 4, 1972 (HBN, et al.; DC0000-012).

This well documented record covers all the critical field marks of a Bohemian Waxwing and clearly eliminates the possibility of a Cedar Waxwing. There are very few records of Bohemian Waxwing in the middle Atlantic States and this is the first record for the District of Columbia (Newman 1972).

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

Ocean City, WORC, MD, October 21, 1962 (WSc, *CRO, et al.; MD1995-007).

This is the first record of Western Tanager in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The bird was captured at the former Ocean City banding station as part of “Operation Recovery” (Scudder 1962). Although the Western Tanager is known to occur as a rare fall migrant and winter visitor in states to our north (Bull 1964, Veit and Petersen 1993), Maryland reports have been difficult to confirm.

Identification of Western Tanagers in basic plumage must be accomplished using multiple characteristics. Some Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*) show relatively prominent wing bars, so this character is not a sufficient field mark for species identification. Any claimed sighting of this species should include a description of the wings, head, back, rump and if possible, underwing coverts. Davis (1972) and Pyle (1997) discuss the identification of *Piranga* species.

Spotted Towhee *Pipilo maculatus*

Derwood, MONT, MD, December 17, 1994 (BM, RG; MD1996-021).

This is the first record of Spotted Towhee in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. Formerly considered a subspecies of the “Rufous-sided Towhee,” the Spotted Towhee has been given species rank, as has the Eastern Towhee (*P. erythrophthalmus*), the former eastern form of the Rufous-sided Towhee. With this distinction, observers should take greater care in the observation of towhees in winter in the hopes of accumulating more records. There are a number of records of this species throughout eastern North American, from Quebec to Florida (Greenlaw 1996).

Baird's Sparrow *Ammodramus bairdii*

North Ocean City, WORC, MD, October 14, 1966 (+WV, GC; MD1996-047).

The immature individual was netted during the “Operation Recovery” banding operations and collected. It represents one of few Baird's Sparrows records for the eastern United States (AOU 1983) and Maryland's only record. Baird's Sparrow populations have declined on their midwestern prairie breeding grounds (Jones et al. 1998) and additional records may be unlikely. Additionally, Baird's Sparrow is a relatively short-distance migrant and more western in distribution, as compared to many of the more common western vagrants in Maryland (e.g., Lark Sparrow [*Chondestes grammacus*] and Clay-colored Sparrow [*Spizella pallida*]).

Le Conte's Sparrow *Ammodramus leconteii*

Ocean Pines, WORC, MD, December 27, 1974–February 8, 1975 (KK, *CV, et al.; MD1995-011); Gray's Creek, WORC, MD, December 29, 1993–February 20, 1994 (*MHo, *MI, PO; MD1996-049).

These are the second and third records of Le Conte's Sparrow in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. Both were discovered on the Ocean City Christmas Bird Count and subsequently seen by a number of observers and documented with photographs. The 1974 individual was the first state record (Klimkiewicz 1975).

Le Conte's Sparrow is proving to be a rare, but regular, wintering species in southeastern Virginia (Kain 1987). Additional Maryland records are under review by the committee. The very elusive behavior of this poorly-known species (Lowther 1996) suggests it may be more frequent in Maryland than the few records would indicate.

Harris' Sparrow *Zonotrichia querula*

Ellicott City, HWRD, MD, January 23, 1965–March 1, 1965 (*EB; MD1996-030); Ellicott City, HWRD, MD, January 23, 1965 (+EB; MD1996-031); Greenbelt, PGEO, MD, February 17, 1967–March 7, 1967 (JH; MD1996-032); Greenbelt, PGEO, MD, January 6, 1968–March 8, 1968 (JH; MD1996-033); Greenbelt, PGEO, MD, November 19, 1968–March 1, 1969 (JH; MD1996-034); Hagerstown, WASH, MD, January 15, 1988 (*HBr; MD1996-037).

These are the first records of Harris' Sparrow in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The Ellicott City records refer to two individuals, one of which was collected. The three Greenbelt records were of the same banded individual returning to the same location for three consecutive winters.

Harris' Sparrow is a rare wintering species throughout the eastern United States (Norment and Shackleton 1993). In the past twenty years, Maryland records have been very few, following a rash of sightings in the 1960s.



Fig. 5. Harris' Sparrow (1996-037). January 15, 1988. Hagerstown, Washington Co., MD.
Hugh Brandenburg.

Smith's Longspur *Calcarius pictus*

Assateague Island, WORC, MD, November 27, 1976–January 16, 1977 (*MHo, *RRo, et al.; MD1996-028).

This is the only record of Smith's Longspur in Maryland. Two individuals were present on the north end of Assateague Island, associating with a large (50+) flock of Lapland Longspurs (*C. lapponicus*). Records of Smith's Longspur in the eastern United States are very few. Identification of out-of-range longspurs should be done with caution, using references such as Byers et al. (1995), Rising (1996) and Dunn and Beadle (1998).

Chestnut-collared Longspur *Calcarius ornatus*

Ocean City, WORC, MD, August 20, 1906 (+ALu, FK; MD1997-363).

This is the first record of Chestnut-collared Longspur in Maryland accepted by the MD/DCRC. The bird was collected on a farm on the mainland opposite Ocean City (Kirkwood 1908). This species has an extensive pattern of vagrancy to the eastern U.S. (Hill and Gould 1997). Apparent contractions of this species' range and long-term population declines (Hill and Gould 1997) might reduce the likelihood of future occurrences in Maryland.

Painted Bunting *Passerina ciris*

Ocean City, WORC, MD, August 31, 1963 (EA, et al.; MD1995-008); Pendennis Mount, ANAR, MD, December 26, 1981–January 21, 1982 (HrW, et al.; MD1995-009); Hollywood, STMA, MD, February 8, 1993–April 4, 1993 (*PC, et al.; MD1995-040); Elkton, CECL, MD, December 13, 1993–December 19, 1993 (*GGr, *RHa, et al.; MD1995-037); Berlin, WORC, MD, December 27, 1993–April 5, 1994 (*GJ, et al.; MD1995-038); Berlin, WORC, MD, January 19, 1995–February 14, 1995 (*MHo; MD1995-039).

The committee had previously accepted two records of Painted Bunting for Maryland. Except for the August record at Ocean City, these records were of male Painted Buntings at feeders (and documented with photographs). Painted Bunting occurrences seem to be increasing in Maryland and the mid-Atlantic states.



Fig. 6. Painted Bunting (1995-037). December 1993. Elkton, Cecil Co., MD. H. Ross Hawkins.

Pine Grosbeak *Pinicola enucleator*

Big Savage Mountain, GARR, MD, February 10, 1973 (*RRo; MD1997-411); Cumberland, ALGY, MD, January 8, 1996 (JP; MD1997-379).

These are the first records of Pine Grosbeak accepted by the MD/DCRC. One of the rarest "winter finches" at our latitude, additional historical reports are under review by the committee, as this species was only recently added to the review list.

**IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTED,
NATURAL OCCURRENCE QUESTIONABLE**

Based on the information provided to the committee, the identification of the following records was judged to be correct. The committee felt, however, that their escape from captivity was the most likely explanation for their appearance in the area rather than a natural origin.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

St. Michaels, TLBT, MD, January 12, 1996–February 25, 1996 (LW, *SRI, JRe, et al.; MD1996-038).

Although this bird was clearly a European Goldfinch, the committee felt the evidence suggests it was not of wild origin. This species is an inexpensive cage bird that is frequently released into the wild. There is no known pattern of vagrancy that would support this as a record of a true European vagrant, or even a descendant from the ill-fated New York colony of years ago. Nonetheless, it is important to document such reports, in case a pattern were ever to be established. The committee compliments the observers on the detailed descriptions and photographs. Smith and Smith (1993) present a good rationale for the need to continually document such exotic species.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

This list contains reports that were not accepted by the committee. In the vast majority of these cases, the reports were not accepted because the evidence provided did not convince all (or all but one) of the committee members that the identifications were conclusively established. The identification may well have been correct; in only a very few cases was it felt that an identification was incorrect.

When submitting reports, observers are encouraged to provide a complete description of the bird (or birds) in question. Reports limited to "important characteristics" (as discussed in the following section) make evaluation more difficult. Often features that are not in themselves diagnostic prove to be highly supportive of an identification.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) Ocean City, WORC, MD, January 4, 1997 (MD1997-471). **White-tailed Kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) College Park, PGEO, MD, September 4, 1992 (MD1995-016). **Gyrfalcon** (*Falco rusticolus*) Chestertown, KENT, MD, January 19, 1997 (MD1997-473). **Mew Gull** (*Larus canus*) Ocean City Inlet, WORC, MD, October 26, 1990 (MD1995-030); **Mew (Common) Gull** (*Larus canus canus*) Conowingo Dam, HARF/CECL, MD, February 2, 1994–February 4, 1994 (MD1995-031); Conowingo Dam, HARF/CECL, MD, February 6, 1994 (MD1995-032). **Arctic Tern** (*Sterna paradisaea*) Atlantic Ocean, WORC,

MD, May 16, 1976 (MD1995-034); Ocean City—Fourth Street Flats, WORC, MD, July 2, 1991 (MD1993-005). **White-winged Tern** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) Assateague, WORC, MD, August 6, 1994 (MD1995-019); Point Lookout, STMA, MD, August 14, 1994 (MD1995-020). **Vermilion Flycatcher** (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*) Hollywood, STMA, MD, July 12, 1992 (MD1992-029). **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*Myiarchus cinerascens*) Blackwater NWR, DORC, MD, December 9, 1994 (MD1996-012). **Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) Brighton Dam, HWRD, MD, December 24, 1978 (MD1994-005). **Cave Swallow** (*Petrochelidon fulva*) North Beach, CLVT, MD, May 20, 1996 (MD1996-026). **Sprague's Pipit** (*Anthus spragueii*) Sandy Point, ANAR, MD, April 4, 1969 (MD1996-046). **Bullock's Oriole** (*Icterus bullockii*) Annapolis, ANAR, MD, Nov. 22, 1970-Jan. 30, 1971 (MD1995-041). **Pine Grosbeak** (*Pinicola enucleator*) Back River Sewage Treatment Plant, BALT, MD, May 4, 1996 (MD1997-465).

Additional comments are provided for some of the "Not Accepted" reports listed above. These comments include some information on patterns of vagrancy as an indication of when these species might be expected to appear in the Maryland/DC area. Identification information is also provided for some species to emphasize the level of information that may be needed to adequately document their occurrence in the area and the references relevant to the review. However, this information is not meant to specifically criticize the materials submitted for any of the "Not Accepted" reports.

Pacific Loon: Winter loon identification can be challenging, especially given the sometimes less than ideal viewing conditions. Reports of Pacific Loon should carefully detail the pattern of the head and neck, bill shape, and mantle color. Excellent references such as Kaufman (1990), Harris et al. (1989), and Jonsson (1993) should be consulted prior to going afield. Maryland still has no accepted records of this species.

Gyrfalcon: Separation of large falcons is very difficult considering the possibility of escaped European species (i.e., Saker [*F. cherrug*]) or hybrids (Gantlett and Millington 1992). Falconers keep Gyrfalcons and other species in captivity, and they occasionally escape or are seen "wild" while being flown. The focus on providing large falcons through captive-breeding programs has resulted in many different combinations, of which field identification would prove to be quite a challenge. However, the relatively large number of Gyrfalcon records from adjacent states (e.g., 41 from Pennsylvania, Fingerhood 1984) suggests that this falcon is a likely candidate for vagrancy to Maryland. Another record is under review by the Committee.

Mew Gull: Reports of Mew Gulls from the Atlantic coast include individuals of the Common Gull (*Larus c. canus*), vagrants from Europe, and the Mew Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchos*) which occurs in western North America. Claims of this species in Maryland should be sufficiently detailed to establish which form is involved, which may require very careful attention to the wing-tip pattern and other subtle characteristics. Grant (1986) remains the standard reference for identification information on these races. Lauro and Spencer (1980), Harris et al. (1989), Lewington et al. (1991), and Tove (1993) provide additional information.

The two reports at Conowingo were subsequent to an accepted record. Although these reports were not accepted, the observers are to be credited with providing reports to the committee. It is critical that subsequent sightings of rarities be equally well documented as the initial observation. It cannot be assumed that because the initial sighting may have been correct, that all subsequent claims of the species are as well. Such assumptions frequently present difficulties for the committee in determining the actual period of occurrence for a given record.

White-winged Tern: Although numerous well-documented records exist for Delaware and Virginia (Kain 1987), this species has been difficult to document in Maryland; there are no accepted records. The lack of coastal fresh-water impoundments (the preferred habitat in the other states) would appear to be the principal factor in Maryland's lack of records. Always found with the much more numerous Black Tern (*C. niger*), large concentrations of the latter species in coastal Maryland are ephemeral in nature.

Although the White-winged Tern is distinctive in breeding plumage, variations in lighting and viewing conditions can make identification difficult. Individuals molting into basic plumage or in basic plumage present an identification challenge. All reports of White-winged Terns in these plumages must include careful descriptions of the breast, upperwing, rump, and head. See Harris et al. (1989), Alstrom (1989), and Olsen and Larsson (1995) for information on the identification of the marsh terns.

Cave Swallow: In recent years, a number of records of Cave Swallow have accumulated along the eastern coast of the U.S. and Canada. Records exist for Nova Scotia, Ontario, New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina (West 1995). The increase in records may be attributable to the expansion of this species' range, or perhaps more efficient and knowledgeable coverage by birders (West 1995). Hence, this species is a likely candidate for addition to the Maryland list.

Cave Swallows in the middle Atlantic States could be of West Indian origin (*P. f. fulva*), which normally occurs in the Greater Antilles and S. Florida, or the population of the southwestern United States and adjacent Mexico (*P. f. pallida*), or perhaps even one of the Middle or South American races (West 1995).

Cave Swallows are very similar to Cliff Swallows (*H. pyrrhonota*) in general appearance, and excellent documentation will be required to confirm this species in Maryland. Given the less than ideal viewing conditions often associated with fast-flying swallows, this may be difficult to obtain. Additionally, hybrids between Barn (*H. rustica*) and Cave Swallows have been reported, as well as mixed pairs with Cliff Swallows (West 1995), which would further complicate identification.

Sprague's Pipit: There are very few confirmed records of vagrant Sprague's Pipits from eastern North America. King (1981) describes its field identification in detail. This shy species has very specific habitat requirements, preferring upland fields with short but thick grassy cover. It would not be expected to occur in the more open wet habitats preferred by American Pipits (*Anthus rubescens*) or in a flock.

Bullock's Oriole: This species is a very rare but fairly regular vagrant to eastern North America (Bull 1964, Kain 1987, Veit and Petersen 1993). They are most likely to be discovered during late fall and winter, primarily as visitors to feeders.

The identification of vagrant Bullock's Orioles is complicated by variation exhibited by Baltimore Orioles (*I. galbula*); identification of females and young males requires caution (see Pyle 1997, Lee and Birch 1998a, 1998b). Detailed descriptions of the upperparts, wings, head pattern, and underpart coloration are important for claims of female or immature male Bullock's Orioles. Hybrids between these two species are regularly reported from the Great Plains (Sibley and Short 1964), and further complicate the field identification of extralimital individuals.

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WINTER, DECEMBER 1, 1996–FEBRUARY 28, 1997

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

Unlike last year, this winter was mild, with an increase in reports for some species like Wood Duck, Osprey, and Chipping Sparrow. There was no invasion of owls or northern finches.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Ann Bishop, Rick Blom, Bob Boxwell, John Churchill, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Sam Freiberg, Inez Glime, Mark Hoffman, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Nancy Magnusson, David Mozurkewich, Mariana Nuttle, Mike O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Wicomico County), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringler, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, David Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Debbie Terry, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, Marcia Whitmyre.

Abbreviations: CBC – Christmas Bird Count, DC – District of Columbia, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SF – State Forest, SP – State Park, WMA – Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Alpha Ridge (Howard), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Hains Point (DC), Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), PRNAS (St. Mary's), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), PWRC (Prince George's unless noted otherwise), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schoolhouse Pond (Prince George's), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise).

Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. The **Red-throated Loon** at the Tidal Basin in DC on Dec. 21 (Dobbins), and the 3 at Hooper Island on Feb. 23 (Armistead) were at interesting locations. The high for **Pied-billed Grebes** was 55 at Loch Raven on Dec. 10 and again on Feb. 2 (Simon), while **Horned Grebes** included 40 at PRNAS on Feb. 2 (Craig), and 20 at Hooper Island on Feb. 23 (Armistead). **Northern Gannet** sightings were primarily confined to the southern Bay in Virginia waters this winter as were **Brown Pelicans**. **Double-crested Cormorants** were numerous including 1 at Loch Raven on Dec. 4 and Dec. 30 (Simon), 3 at Choptank on Dec. 11 (D. Ford), 200 at the Harry W. Nice Bridge in Charles County on Jan. 20 (Jett), and 2 at Hart-Miller on Feb. 23 (Scarpulla). **Great Cormorants** included 6 at Wetipquin, Wicomico County on Dec. 22 (Dyke), and an immature at Conowingo on Jan. 19 (Stasz).

Herons. Great Blue Herons were very numerous in December including about 100 at Conowingo on Dec. 15 (Blom), 21 at Blackwater on Jan. 10 (Dyke), 1 at Back River on Jan. 18 (Blom), and over 40 at Federalsburg on Feb. 28 (Glime). Harry Armistead found 2 Great Egrets in Dorchester County on Jan. 26; one each at Hooper Island and Elliott Island. Dave Mozurkewich reported three Great Egrets at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 16. Snowy Egrets included 3 in Ocean City on Dec. 26 (O'Brien+), 3 in West Ocean City on Dec. 30 (Hoffman), and 1 in Ocean City on Jan. 4th and 7th (Ribaudo, Messina). A Little Blue Heron lingered in West Ocean City until Jan. 18 (Dyke). Two Tricolored Herons were spotted in Ocean City from Jan. 4 (Ribaudo) through Jan. 18 (Dyke), and another was at Deal Island WMA on Feb. 16 (Mozurkewich).

Vultures. Patty Craig noted 50 Black Vultures at White Point, St. Mary's County on Jan. 19. Turkey Vultures of interest included 184 in sight at one time at the Transquaking River bridge in Dorchester County on Jan. 26 (Armistead), and 4 at Oakland Sang-Run Road, Garrett County on Feb. 27 (Skipper).

Geese, Swans. From one to six Greater White-fronted Geese were reported at Blackwater from Dec. 26 through Jan. 11 (Dyke, O'Brien+), and there were single sightings off Route 144 in Howard County on Feb. 1 (Osenton), near Sandy Point on Feb. 17 (Mozurkewich), and at Pylesville on Feb. 22 (Larry Frye). Gene Scarpulla and party reported about 1200 flyover Snow Geese, including 7 of the blue race, at Conowingo on Jan. 25. From one to three Ross's Geese were seen at Blackwater from Dec. 26 through Jan. 26 (Dyke, Armistead+). The report of 24 Mute Swans on Feb. 2 at Scotland was not good news (Boxwell, Craig). Highs for Tundra Swans were 650 at Benedict on Feb. 1 (Jett), and 970 at Blackwater on Feb. 23 (Armistead).

Puddle Ducks. Wood Ducks were more numerous this winter, including 3 at the Aquatic Gardens in DC on Feb. 18 (Dobbins), and another at West Ocean City on Feb. 23 (Lawler). Scarpulla tallied 211 Gadwalls at Hart-Miller on Dec. 14, and 79 were checked off at Scotland on Feb. 1 (Craig, Bishop, Boxwell). Single drake Eurasian Wigeons were reported at Triadelphia on Dec. 21 (Rich Mason), at Schoolhouse Pond on Dec. 23 (Stasz), at Deal Island WMA on Jan. 12 (Dyke), and at Scotland on Feb. 2 and Feb. 22 (Craig+). Highs for American Wigeon were 250 at Loch Raven on Dec. 15 (Simon, Terry). The high for American Black Ducks inland at Loch Raven was 118 on Jan. 21 (Simon), and flocks of 115 and 155 were around the Triadelphia area on Feb. 16 (Farrell, Jo & Bob Solem). Four Blue-winged Teal were located at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 15 (Gary Felton), and 2 were found at Elliott Island on Jan. 26 (Armistead). Jim Stasz noted 32 Northern Shovelers at Schoolhouse Pond on Jan. 21, and the high was 60 at Blackwater on Feb. 23 (Armistead). The high for Northern Pintails was 110 throughout southern Dorchester County on Jan. 26 (Armistead).

Diving Ducks. A nice count of 130 Redheads was made at Loch Raven on Jan. 31 (Simon, Harold Dunlop), and several flocks of 20–45 Redheads were reported at various locations in Howard County (Solem+). Steve Simon tallied 338 Ring-necked Ducks at Loch Raven for the season high on Jan. 4, 80 were at Beauvue on Feb. 19 (Rambo), and 20 were at Blackwater on Feb. 22 (Armistead). The high for Greater Scaup was 1292 at Hart-Miller on Feb. 23; 625 Lesser Scaup were there on Feb. 2 (Scarpulla). Two King Eiders frequented Point Lookout beginning on Dec. 29, and the last one was seen on Feb. 1 (Craig, Bishop, Boxwell+). It was a good winter at Ocean City for Common Eiders beginning with 9 there on Dec. 7 (Cornelius, Smith), ending with 2 there on Feb. 2 (Bart Hutchinson), with a high of 22 on Jan. 25 (Paul DuMont). Patty Craig also found a female Harlequin Duck at Point Lookout on Dec. 15.

Harlequins were reported at Ocean City throughout the season with 4 still spotted there on Feb. 2 (Hutchinson), and 3 there on Feb. 23 (Lawler). Scoter sightings were below average with scattered low-numbered reports. However, Patty Craig tallied 3000 **Surf Scoters** at Point Lookout on Jan. 2, 15 **White-winged Scoters** were at Tilghman Island on Dec. 8 (Reese, Levin Willey), and 15 **Black Scoters** were at Point Lookout on Feb. 1 (Craig, Bishop, Boxwell). Three inland **Oldsquaws** were found at Loch Raven on Jan. 7 and Jan. 21 (Simon, Jenkins). Gene Scarpulla and party checked off 180 **Buffleheads** at Conowingo on Jan. 25 (Scarpulla+). There were 250 **Common Goldeneyes** at Solomons Island on Dec. 16 (Reese), and 300 were at PRNAS from Jan. 30 to Feb. 2 (Craig, Tyler Bell, Jane Kostenko). At PRNAS on Jan. 22, Doug Lister notched a nice **Barrow's Goldeneye**, which was seen through March 1. Another was seen Feb. 7-9 at St. George Island (Craig, Stasz). Connie Skipper listed 78 **Hooded Mergansers** on Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 5, and Steve Simon notched 249 Hooded Mergansers at Loch Raven on Jan. 21. **Common Mergansers** included 58 at Blackwater on Jan. 26 (Armistead), a wonderful count of 2690 at Conowingo on Jan. 25 (Scarpulla+), and 220 at Triadelphia on Feb. 21 (Wallace). Stasz and Jett found 65 **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Buena Vista, Calvert County on Feb. 1 and tallied a nice count of 3000 **Ruddy Ducks** at St. Leonard Creek the same day.

Exotics. Sightings of a solo **Barnacle Goose** were made in Cecil County on Jan. 25 at Ridge Road (Griffin, Fogleman), and at Bethel WMA on Feb. 21 (Whitmyre). Three **Ruddy Shelducks** of unknown origin moved about Howard County beginning on Dec. 1, frequenting the Lake Elkhorn area (Ecker+). Two were at Fulton on Jan. 25 (Osenton).

Diurnal Raptors. An **Osprey** was at Hughes Hollow on Dec. 6 (Dick Homan); others of note included single sightings in Montgomery County near Old Anglers Inn on Jan. 25 (David Winer), at Blackwater on Feb. 21 (Rambo), at Mechanicsville on Feb. 22 (Shirley Wood), and at Denton on Feb. 26 (Nuttle). A nice count of 4 adult and 22 immature **Bald Eagles** was made at Conowingo on Dec. 22 (Blom), 4 adults and 2 immatures were noted at Allens Fresh on Jan. 20 (Jett), and a total of 13 were at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Harford County on Jan. 25 (Webb). Two **Northern Goshawks** were checked off this season with 1 near Roxbury Road, Howard County on Dec. 21 (Wallace), and another near New Hampshire Avenue in Montgomery County on Dec. 23 (Norm Saunders). A dark-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was near Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 5 (Skipper), another frequented Alpha Ridge in February (Magnusson+), and 3 were at Elliott Island on Jan. 26 (Armistead). Sam Dyke witnessed 2 immature **Golden Eagles** sparring at Fork Neck Road, Dorchester County on Jan. 10, and at least 2 adult and 2 immature Goldens wintered at Blackwater this season (Gregory Inskip+). **Merlins** included 1 at Route 85 in Frederick County on Dec. 8 (Chuck Welburn), 1 at Hains Point the same day (Pisano), a female at Hains Point on Dec. 18 (Dobbins), and 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 23 (Craig).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots, Sandhill Crane. Ted Ravinus reported 2 **Ring-necked Pheasants** at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 16, and Harry Armistead spotted 3 **Wild Turkeys** at Elliott Island on Jan. 26. A nice count of 12 **Virginia Rails** was made at Hart-Miller on Feb. 2 (Scarpulla). About 536 **American Coots** were at Deep Creek Lake on Dec. 5 (Skipper), about 200 were there on Dec. 25 (Gary Felton), and the season high was about 1400 at Loch Raven from Dec. 30 through Feb. 16 (Simon, Terry). A **Sandhill Crane** was seen by many observers near North Franklinville Road in Frederick County from Dec. 28 (John Haley) through Jan. 1.

Shorebirds. The high for **Killdeer** was 400 at Compton on Dec. 28 (Rambo), and **Greater Yellowlegs** included 1 at Beauvue on Jan. 4 (Rambo), and 11 at Blackwater on Feb. 23 (Armistead). Among the **Lesser Yellowlegs** were 1 at Scotland on Dec. 15 (Craig), and 2 at

Blackwater on Feb. 23 (Armistead). A couple of **Spotted Sandpipers** lingered, with 1 at Woodmark Lake, Howard County on Dec. 8 (Mike & Grazina McClure), and 1 on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on Dec. 19 (Jim Green) and Dec. 22 (Freiberg). A **Marbled Godwit** visited Ocean City from Dec. 23 (Churchill) through at least Dec. 30 (Hoffman). About 50 **Sanderlings** were noted at PRNAS on Feb. 6 (Craig), and 410 **Dunlins** were tallied at Hooper Island on Jan. 26 (Armistead). An **American Woodcock** was displaying at Waldorf on Feb. 9 (Jett).

Gulls, Terns. Laughing Gulls of note included 300 at Schoolhouse Pond on Dec. 12 (Stasz), 1 at Fulton on Dec. 14 (Solem), 30 at Hains Point on Dec. 15 (Dobbins), 2 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 21, 1 at Conowingo on Dec. 29, and 1 at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla). A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was identified at Schoolhouse Pond on Dec. 5 (Stasz), and a **Little Gull** was checked off at Ocean City on Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Fifty-five **Bonaparte's Gulls** were tallied at Conowingo on Dec. 8 (Blom, Scarpulla), and the high was 600 at the Ocean City inlet on Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Dobbins reported 89 in DC on Jan. 11. An incredible 20,000 **Ring-billed Gulls** were massed at Conowingo on Jan. 25 (Scarpulla+), and 3000 were at the Charles County landfill on Feb. 1 (Jett). Later Ring-billeds included about 390 at Lee's Lane, Frederick County on Feb. 23 (I. & S. Cornelius). Jim Stasz took photos of a nice find at Schoolhouse Pond on Dec. 16 — a third-winter **California Gull**. **Thayer's Gulls** visited the state this winter with an adult at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 21 (Blom, Scarpulla), a first-winter and a third-winter bird at Schoolhouse Pond on Dec. 22 (Stasz), an adult at Alpha Ridge on Jan. 15 and a first-winter at Eastern Landfill, Baltimore County on Jan. 18 (Scarpulla+). A first-winter **Iceland Gull** was sorted out at Conowingo on Dec. 1, as was an adult that lingered into February (Scarpulla, Blom). Other solo Iceland Gulls, first-winters, as is often the case, were at Eastern Landfill, Baltimore County, on Jan. 18 (Scarpulla+), at Hains Point on Jan. 24 (Pisano), at Solomons Island on Feb. 1 (Jett, Stasz), and at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 1 (Scarpulla+). Winter sightings of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** remain numerous. Some of the highlights included 1 at Leonardtown on Dec. 6 (Rambo), 1 at Scotland on Dec. 7 (Craig), 4 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 21 and 5 at Conowingo on Dec. 22 (Blom, Scarpulla), 5 in DC on Jan. 8 (Pisano) and on Jan. 26 (Dobbins), 1 at the Charles County landfill on Feb. 1 (Jett), 1 at Lake Artemesia, Prince George's County the same day (Mozurkewich), 4 at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 1 (Scarpulla+), and 1 at Liberty Lake in Carroll County on Feb. 4 (Ed Boyd). **Glaucous Gulls** were not to be left out this season with single sightings at Schoolhouse Pond on Dec. 21 (Pisano, Ringler), at Alpha Ridge on Feb. 22 (Magnusson+), at Salisbury on Jan. 17 (Dyke), and at PRNAS on Jan. 30 (Craig). **Great Black-backed Gulls** included 750 at Choptank on Dec. 28 (D. Ford), and 400 at Alpha Ridge Feb. 1 (Scarpulla+). Conowingo hosted a first-winter **Black-legged Kittiwake** from Dec. 1 through mid-January (Blom, Scarpulla+). One was also reported from Ocean City on Dec. 23 (Churchill), and on Dec. 26 (Hoffman, O'Brien). Patty Craig tallied 39 **Forster's Terns** at PRNAS on Dec. 10.

Owls, Flycatchers, Vireos. A **Great Horned Owl** was found on an old Osprey nest at Point Lookout on Feb. 23 (Sue Scheider), and a **Long-eared Owl** was at Back River on Jan. 18 (Blom). A few **Short-eared Owls** were present this winter, including 1 at Leonardtown on Jan. 8 (Rambo), 1 at Kent Narrows on Jan. 15 (Dyke), another at Abbey Point, Harford County on Jan. 25 (Webb), and 6 at Elliott Island on Jan. 26 (Armistead). There were several reports of **Eastern Phoebes** this winter including 1 at the PWRC North Tract, Anne Arundel County on Jan. 21 (Stan Arnold), 1 at Michaelsville on Jan. 25 (Webb), 1 at Centreville on Feb. 3 (Reese), and 1 at Keedysville on Feb. 28 (Steve Huy). Mark Hoffman reported a **Blue-headed Vireo** at Hickory Point Tract, Worcester County on Dec. 27.

Corvids, Larks, Wrens, Gnatcatchers. George Jett reported a large **American Crow** roost with over 3000 individuals at Waldorf on Jan. 20, and about 300 **Fish Crows** were noted at Dameron on Feb. 5 (Craig). A **Common Raven** was noted in the Hunt Valley area, an unusual location for this species, on Jan. 10 (Simon). The high for **Horned Larks** was 400 at Bohemia Church Road, Cecil County on Jan. 11 (Gary Griffith). A **House Wren** was at Back River on Jan. 18 (Blom), and two hard-to-find **Sedge Wrens** were reported during the Chincoteague CBC at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 29 (Hoffman). **Hardy Marsh Wrens** included 1 at West Ocean City on Dec. 30 (Hoffman), and 1 to 5 at Hart-Miller from Jan. 4 to Feb. 16 (Ricciardi+). A few **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** braved the season with single sightings at Oxon Run on Dec. 21 and at Seneca on Dec. 22 (Freiberg), at Stockton on Dec. 29-30 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and at Bowie on Feb. 2 (Fred & Jane Fallon).

Thrushes, Mimids. Patty Craig reported large flocks of **American Robins** in St. Mary's County with 300 on Jan. 20 and 500 on Feb. 4. As might be expected with the relatively mild conditions, several **Gray Catbirds** were reported including 1 at Loch Raven on Jan. 12 (Jenkins), 1 at Hurlock on Jan. 20 (Reese), and 1 at Romney Creek, Harford County on Jan. 25 (Webb). Several **Brown Thrashers** were also noted such as the single sightings at Centreville on Feb. 10 (Reese), at Greensboro on Feb. 13 (Marvin Hewitt), and at St. George Island on Feb. 16 (Craig, Bishop).

Warblers. Mark Hoffman found an **Orange-crowned Warbler** at Stockton on Dec. 29-30. A **Nashville Warbler** was at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Dec. 27 (Hoffman, O'Brien), and a **Northern Parula** lingered at Conowingo from Dec. 15 until Jan. 25 (Scarpulla+). Patty Craig reported the high for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** with about 345 at Point Lookout on Dec. 29 as well as two singing **Pine Warblers** at Dameron on Feb. 19. A **Palm Warbler** was found in Salisbury on Jan. 21 (Lawler), and a **Black-and-white Warbler** in Seneca Creek SP, Montgomery County on Dec. 22 (Freiberg). A **Common Yellowthroat** was listed at Centennial Park on Jan. 5 (Kurt Schwarz), another was in DC on Jan. 26 (Mike Milton+), and one was at Point Lookout on Feb. 2 (Craig, Boxwell).

Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel. A hardy **Indigo Bunting** was found at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla). A **Dickcissel** was listed during the Annapolis CBC on Jan. 5 (Hal Wierenga), and another was reported in Carroll County on Jan. 25 (Smith, Cornelius).

Sparrows, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. Dave Webb reported 47 **American Tree Sparrows** at Aberdeen on Jan. 25, and numerous **Chipping Sparrows**, from many locations, were reported throughout the period such as the one at the Aquatic Gardens in DC on Feb. 18 (Dobbins). Four **Lapland Longspurs** were near Lily Pons on Dec. 8 (Wilbur Hershberger), and 1 was listed during the Denton CBC on Dec. 21 (Ricciardi). **Snow Buntings** included 4 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Dec. 12 (Walbeck), 300 at Hart-Miller on Jan. 4 (Ricciardi+), and 60 at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 5 (Scarpulla).

Blackbirds, Orioles. Nine **Rusty Blackbirds** were noted in Easton on Feb. 4 (Reese). **Common Grackles** were numerous and widespread including about 200,000 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 21 (Scarpulla+). Harry Armistead found 95 **Boat-tailed Grackles** in one flock at Elliott Island on Jan. 26. A female **Baltimore Oriole** frequented Salisbury from Dec. 22 through Feb. 6 (Lawler).

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Cover: Adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Huntley Meadows, VA, Summer 1994. Photo by Al Haury.



TUFTED DUCK IN CALVERT COUNTY, THE SECOND FOR MARYLAND

TYLER BELL

I work for the Academy of Natural Sciences Estuarine Research Center on the grounds of Jefferson Patterson Park in St. Leonard, MD. Over the years, I've been compiling a list of birds for the park and noticed that I was missing some waterfowl from the list. So, at lunch on March 18, 1997, three colleagues and I went down to the Patuxent River to scope out the situation.

When we arrived on the pier, I looked upriver and noticed there were a number of Greater and Lesser Scaup and a dark-backed bird that I thought to be a Ring-necked Duck, one of the birds missing from my park list. I put the scope on it and instantly knew that it was an adult male Tufted Duck! I said to the group, "I've got a Tufted Duck!" To which they replied, "No way." When I said I was serious, they became excited and we all looked through the scope at it before I attached the camera to attempt some photos (which turned out lousy, by the way).

The sky was cloudy with a breeze of about 5 mph from the northeast. Visibility was unlimited. It was about 50° F. Fortunately, my wife, Jane Kostenko, and I had been chasing an Eared Grebe that Patty Craig had found at Point Lookout State Park. We were armed to the teeth with our scope, a Bausch and Lomb Criterion 4000 Schmidt-Cassegrain reflector spotting scope (66x fixed), 10x40 Zeiss binoculars, as well as the camera and mount. It couldn't have happened at a more opportune time!

When I first looked at the duck through the scope, it was in profile. The tuft was quite long, hanging down the nape almost to the bird's back. Numerous observers noticed that after it dove and resurfaced, it would shake the tuft back and forth to dry it. There was no mistaking the identity of this bird!

I asked two of my friends to stay on the bird while I went back to the lab (a half mile away) to activate the phone tree and tweak the Internet. First, I called my wife, Jane Kostenko, who bailed from work right away, then I called some local birders and finally, I sent email messages to *Birdchat*, *MarVaDel* (MD Osprey wasn't born yet), and as many birders as I had in my e-mail address book. Then I ran back down to the dock to wait for people to come. By the end of the afternoon, when it started raining heavily, there had already been nine observers.

The next morning started off ominously with rain mixed with snow. Despite the nasty weather, many people came from all over the state to see the duck. The Internet and local phone trees had spread the word effectively. By the end of the second day, about a dozen more birders had seen the bird.

On March 20, I arrived at 7:05 a.m. in time to greet a departing birder from D.C. who had just seen the bird slightly downriver of the dock. When I went down to look at it, it was gone, never to be relocated despite a massive effort by numerous people from as far away as New Jersey. Jim Stasz managed to find three Eared Grebes near the pier and Jane and I found another across the river at Greenwell State Park. Jim Stasz found the Ring-necked Ducks that I had originally gone out to look for. In all, over 60 people signed the log book placed on the pier by the Academy, and over two dozen people saw the bird during its 36-hour stay.

I would like to thank the staff of the Academy of Natural Sciences for allowing visitors onto the pier, which is normally used for scientific research only, and the staff of Jefferson Patterson Park, who allowed visitors on the park property despite the fact that the park is officially closed to the public until April 15.

Bald Eagle Rescue

Steve Reed and Allan Haury

On Sunday morning, October 19, 1997, a light, steady rain was falling and the temperature was holding at 56° F. Steve Reed, one of the Rangers at Quiet Waters Park in Annapolis, received a call from the Tauts who live near the park in Bay Ridge. The Tauts found two Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) down on the ground and in distress in their back yard. Because this seemed somewhat odd, Steve asked for a description of the birds, which was clearly that of mature Bald Eagles.

In an attempt to get assistance in rescuing the eagles, Steve first called the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The person that answered the phone tried to convince Steve that the birds were Ospreys, not eagles. Because it was Sunday, DNR assistance could not be provided. Noah's Ark said that if Steve would capture the birds and bring them in, they would take a look at them. Anne Arundel County Animal Control was unavailable as they were responding to a call about a raccoon in a dumpster at a Seven Eleven, but would be available after they were done there.

Steve decided to get the assistance of Michael Murdoch, Quiet Waters Park Superintendent, and go to the Tauts and see what he could do. Steve's experience as a director of a nature center and children's farm caring for birds of prey ranging in size from Barn Owls to Golden Eagles would be very helpful in determining what to do. At the Tauts', the distressed eagles were on the ground in a drainage ditch. Animal Control showed up and all went to the birds. Animal Control poked at the eagles with a capture stick which didn't seem too swift. Steve approached the birds and found that one bird had its talons buried in the side of the other. After removing two of the talons from the side of the other bird, Steve moved the two birds to a picnic table to finish the separation. This process was enough to make the eagles separate on their own and fly off some 50 feet away, apparently to get their bearings. Then they flew off in different directions.

600 Quiet Waters Park Road, Annapolis, MD 21403
852 Redwood Trail, Crownsville, MD 21032

[Note: This is a rewrite of an article by Ranger Reed for the *Quiet Waters Park Newsletter*.]



THE SEASON

SPRING MIGRATION, MARCH 1 – MAY 31, 1997

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

After a warm winter, some early movements were detected, particularly among wood warblers; but migration activity in general seemed lackluster. Much of early May was damp and cool.

Observers: Henry & Liz Armistead, Anne Armistead, Mary Armistead, Stan Arnold, Walter Barrows, Tyler Bell, Ann Bishop, Rick Blom, Bob Boxwell, Don & Carol Broderick, Martha Chestem, Ian Cornelius, Steve Cornelius, Patty Craig, Todd Day, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Ward Ebert, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Fred Fallon, Jane Farrell, Kurt Gaskill, Carol Ghebelian, Greg Gough, Jim Green, Sue Hamilton, Wilbur Hershberger, Robert Hilton, Steve Huy, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Jane Kostenko, Ellen Lawler, Paul & Carol Newman, Mariana Nuttle, Doug Odermatt, Bonnie Ott, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Wicomico County), Danny Poet, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringler, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Sue Schneider, Stephen Simon, Don Simonson, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Leslie Starr, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Rick Sussman, Joe Turner, Mark Wallace, Dave Weesner, Mike Welch, Howard Youth, Helen Zeichner.

Abbreviations: DC — District of Columbia, NWR — National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS — Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, PWRC/North — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center North Tract, SF — State Forest, SP — State Park, UMCF — University of Maryland Central Farm, WMA — Wildlife Management Area, WS — Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: American Chestnut Land Trust (Calvert), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Deal Island WMA (Somerset), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hains Point (DC), Harney Road Ponds (Frederick), Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore), Hughes Hollow (Mont-

NOTE: Starting with Volume 54, *Maryland Birdlife* is following the taxonomy and sequence as published in the 7th Edition (1998) of the A.O.U. Check-list. You will notice especially the insertion of the vultures between the herons and the geese, the shrikes and vireos preceding the crows, and many changes in sequence within the waterfowl. See book review on page 48.

gomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Kershner Pond (Frederick), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Pennyfield (Montgomery), PRNAS (St. Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's), PWRC/North (Anne Arundel), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise), UMCF (Howard), Vantage Point (Howard), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington).

Banding was conducted by Jim Gruber at Narnia Farm, about two miles east of Chestertown on the Chester River.

Loons, Grebes. In general, loon numbers were low this spring, but a handful of **Red-throated Loons** were noted including 1 at Little Seneca Lake on March 8 (Day, Gaskill), 4 at Cobb Island on March 15 (Jett), 8 at North Beach on April 7 (Stasz), and 12 in Ocean City on April 15 (Reese). Patty Craig listed 10 **Common Loons** at Point Lookout SP on March 10, 6 were checked off at Loch Raven on March 23 (Simon+), and 1 was found at Greenbrier SP on March 28 (Weesner). The last Common Loon was at Point Lookout SP on May 30 (Craig). Interesting late spring **Pied-billed Grebe** sightings included 2 at Elms Environmental Center in St. Mary's County on May 19 (Boxwell, Schneider), and one at PWRC/North on May 21-26 (Arnold). **Horned Grebes** were well represented this season with numerous reports including 1 at Little Seneca Lake on March 8 (Barrows), another at Liliypons the same day (Day, Gaskill), 100 at South Point, Worcester County again on March 8 (Dyke), 300 at Point Lookout SP on March 11 (Craig), 250 at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz), and late solo birds at Pt. Lookout SP on May 15 (Craig), and at Wilde Lake on May 20 (Odermatt). Several birders reported 1 or 2 **Red-necked Grebes** at Little Seneca Lake from March 8 (Barrows) through March 17 (Witebsky), and St. Mary's County's first **Eared Grebe** was seen at Pt. Lookout SP from March 10-13 (Craig, Rambo). Jim Stasz located an Eared Grebe on March 16 at North Beach, and 3 on March 20, for a Maryland high count, at Jefferson-Patterson Park, Calvert County, where 1 was noted through March 29 (Jett). Greenwell SP in St. Mary's County also hosted an Eared Grebe on March 22 (Bell, Kostenko), as did Hart-Miller on March 23 (Scarpulla, Blom).

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. Northern Gannet numbers, which were fairly low, included 1 at North Beach on March 1 and 22 there on March 13 (Stasz), 5 at Pt. Lookout on March 7 and 25 there on March 15 (Craig, Kostenko, Bell), and 1 at Bellevue on March 29 (Armisteads, Emilie Harting). A nice sighting of an **American White Pelican** flying north was made at Fort Smallwood on May 1 (Wierenga, Fritz, Geuder, Eberly), and Patty Craig reported a **Brown Pelican** at Pt. Lookout on May 12 and 6 there on May 30, and a **Great Cormorant** there on March 20. Among the numerous **Double-crested Cormorants** were 585 in DC on April 11 (Pisano), 295 at Hart-Miller on April 13 (Scarpulla), 400 at Ocean City on April 15 (Reese), 10 at The Glades, Garrett County on April 23 (Skipper), 785 at Conowingo on April 25 (Blom), 105 at the US 301 bridge, Charles County on May 10 (Jett), 4 at Pt. Lookout on May 27 (Craig), and 32 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+).

Herons, Ibises. An **American Bittern** visited the relatively new Font Hill Wetlands Park in Howard County on May 10-11 (Karan & Bill Blum, Marilyn Veek+), and another was at Seneca on May 15 (Evelyn Christopher). On April 7, three **Great Blue Heron** nests were noted at Vantage Point and 7 young were counted there on May 30 (Chestem). There were 150 Great Blues at Conowingo on April 25 with many active nests (Blom), and 7 nests with at least 21 young at Lake Whetstone, Montgomery County on May 10 (Hilton). **Great Egrets** included 3 at Blackwater on March 15 (Arnold), 1 at Vantage Point on May 22 (Chestem,

Zeichner), and 1 at PWRC/North on May 30 (Arnold). The Armisteads spied a **Snowy Egret** at Bellevue on March 28, and Patty Craig listed 6 at Pt. Lookout on April 25 and found a **Little Blue Heron** there on April 30. Other Little Blues included singles at Lilypons on May 3 (Welch), at Loch Raven on May 6 (Simon), and at Indian Head, Charles County on May 10 (Ghebelian). A **Tricolored Heron** visited Ocean City on April 5 (Youth), 2 were at Cove Point on May 2 (Greg Miller), and 1 was at Pt. Lookout on May 4 (Day). **Cattle Egrets** included 6 at Herrington Harbor, Anne Arundel County on April 7 (Stasz), 2 at Wye Research Center, Queen Anne's County on April 11 (Poet), 1 at Parrish Farm, Charles County on April 16 (Jett), and 12 at Scotland on April 22 (Craig). Stephen and Ian Cornelius discovered a **Green Heron** at the C&O Canal in Frederick County on April 5; other singles were found on April 7 at Wilde Lake (Zeichner), and at Pt. Lookout (Craig). An adult **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was at UMCF on April 5 (Farrell, Jett+), and an amazing 200 were reported at the National Zoo colony in DC on April 6 (Rena Yont). Others included 11 at Conowingo on April 25 and 15 there on May 24 (Blom). **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** included 3 at Sligo Park, Montgomery County on March 23 (Nick Noutis), 1 at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on May 3 (Ghebelian), 1 in DC on May 5 (Pisano), and 2 at PWRC/North on May 24 (Fallon). A **Glossy Ibis** was checked off at Blackwater on April 5 (Green), 7 were listed at Pt. Lookout on April 20 (Kostenko), and 1 was there on May 12 (Craig, Bishop).

Vultures. Fifty **Black Vultures** were at Dameron on March 21 (Craig), and 65 at Conowingo on May 24 (Blom). **Turkey Vultures** included 40 at North Beach on March 8 (Stasz), and 45 at Centreville on April 24 (Reese).

Swans, Geese. Gene Scarpulla and party reported 525 flyover **Tundra Swans** at Hart-Miller on March 8, 40 were seen at Starr on April 10 (Poet), and an immature was at PWRC/North from April 28 through at least May 26 (Arnold+). Jan Reese found a **Mute Swan** nest at St. Michaels on March 12, and the Armistead family discovered 12 of the swans, including 2 adults and 4 downy young in one cove, at Bellevue on May 24. Thankfully, however, total numbers of Mute Swans seemed down from previous years with the high of 85 at St. Michaels on May 22 (Grace Hoster). **Canada Geese** continue to be numerous and widespread. Howard County totaled 515 on their May Count on the 10th (Solem+), and Frederick County totaled 666 on their May Count the same day (Welch+). Clifton Horton reported 2 **Barnacle Geese** at Davidsonville on March 17.

Puddle Ducks. Stan Arnold counted 71 **Wood Ducks** at PWRC/North on March 18. Stasz found 28 **Gadwalls** at Upper Marlboro on March 25. Simon notched 35 Gadwalls at Loch Raven on April 5, as well as 60 **American Wigeon** there on March 9. Fifty of the wigeon were at Nanticoke Marshes on March 24 (Stasz). Mark Wallace checked off 85 **American Black Ducks** at Clark's Farm in western Howard County on March 6, and Darius Ecker found a pair at Lake Elkhorn on May 17. Twenty-five **Mallards**, including a female with 11 downy young, were discovered at Back River on April 19 (Scarpulla+). **Blue-winged Teals** included 2 in DC on March 15 (Pisano, Janni), 30 at Hughes Hollow on March 25 (Green), and 5 at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla+). Sixty-five **Northern Shovelers** were at Blackwater on March 19 (H. Armistead), and 24 were at Upper Marlboro on March 27. Jim Stasz totaled up 70 **Northern Pintails** at the Nanticoke marshes on March 24. **Green-winged Teals** included 4 at Myrtle Grove WMA on March 8 (Jett), 3 at Big Pool on March 9 (Huy), 40 at Tanyard on March 24 and 50 in the Nanticoke Marshes, Wicomico County on the same day (Stasz), and 115 at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead+). Two **Ruddy Shelducks** were reported at Lake Elkhorn on March 9 (Ecker).

Diving Ducks. Harry Armistead tallied 210 **Canvasbacks** at Cambridge on March 19, and Michael Bowen reported 200 at West Ocean City on March 23. Jo Solem had a nice count of 20 **Redheads** at Cooksville on March 8. **Ring-necked Ducks** began with 35 at Kershner Pond on March 2 (I. & S. Cornelius), 30 were at Leonardtown on March 14 (Rambo), 84 were tallied in Denton on March 24 (Stasz), and 150 were at Myrtle Grove WMA on March 24 (Jett). The high for Ring-necks was 470 inland at Deep Creek Lake on March 14 (Skipper). The last reports were of 1 at Harney Road Ponds on May 10 (I. & S. Cornelius), and a wintering pair at Centennial on May 17 (Kurt Schwarz). On March 18, an adult, male **Tufted Duck** was found at Jefferson Patterson Park, Calvert County for Maryland's second record and the first since 1979 (Bell, Kostenko). George Jett listed 250 **Greater Scaup** at Cobb Island on March 15, 15 were at Violettes Lock on March 24 (Green), and the high was 978 at Hart-Miller on March 28 (Scarpulla+). Highs for **Lesser Scaup** were 425 at Bellevue on March 18 (H. Armistead), and 446 at Hart-Miller on March 28 (Scarpulla+). **Common Eiders** were found at Ocean City again with the high of 18 on March 18 (Dyke), and the last report of 1 on May 18 (Paul DuMont). A **King Eider** was reported at Pt. Lookout on March 16 (Arlene Ripley). Ocean City remains a good place to find **Harlequin Ducks**, including 6 on the 16th and 23rd of March (Dyke, Bowen), and 5 on April 15 (Reese). An **Oldsquaw** was at Rileys Lock, Montgomery County on March 8 where 21 were tallied on March 26 (Green), 1 was inland at Greenbrier SP on March 23 and March 28 (Weesner), and the highs were 300 at Bellevue on March 18 and 200 at Cambridge on March 19 (H. Armistead). Overall, numbers of **Black Scoters** and **White-winged Scoters** were low, but Harry Armistead tallied 3730 **Surf Scoters** at Bellevue on March 18. The high for **Bufflehead** was 300 at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz), and late reports were of singles at DC on May 11 (Hilton), and at Pt. Lookout on May 15 (Craig). A late **Common Goldeneye** was reported at Merkle WMA on May 31 (Ken DeCoster). **Hooded Mergansers** included 12 at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on March 8 (Jett), and 20 at Lilypons on March 9 (Clive Harris). **Red-breasted Merganser** reports were numerous, including these early migrants: 3 at Kershner Pond on March 2 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 5 at Greenbrier SP on March 4 (Weesner). Others, all on March 8, were 18 at Triadelphia (Solem), 30 at Little Seneca Lake (Barrows), 70 at Hains Point (Pisano, Janni), and 133 at Hart-Miller (Scarpulla+). Seventy Red-breasteds were at Bellevue on March 28 (Armisteads, Harting), and 2 at Pt. Lookout on May 29 (Rambo). Harry and Liz Armistead turned in the high for **Ruddy Ducks** with 840 at Bellevue on March 30. A lingering Ruddy was at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+).

Diurnal Raptors. See the Table compiled by Sue Ricciardi for a summary of the Fort Smallwood hawk migration. Early **Ospreys** included 3 at Scotland on March 2 (Craig, Bishop), 1 at Upper Marlboro on March 3 (Stasz), 1 at Solomons Island on March 8 (Bell, Kostenko), 2 at Benedict the same day (Phil Davis), and 2 at the Wye Research Center, Queen Anne's County on March 11 (Poet). A **Mississippi Kite** was checked off at Fort Smallwood on May 12 and May 17 (per Ricciardi). A **Northern Harrier** was discovered on May 16 at Allens Fresh (Jett), and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** was found at Lake Elkhorn on May 18 (Ecker). A **Cooper's Hawk** was at PWRC/North on May 30 (Arnold). An early **Broad-winged Hawk** was reported at Beltsville on March 28 (Elaine Hendricks), and a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks**, in courtship flight, was observed at Trappe on March 10 and March 12 (Reese). A light-phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen at Elliott Island on April 13 (Armistead+). **Golden Eagles** in Dorchester County were 1 at Decoursey Bridge Road on March 12 and 2 at Bestpitch Ferry Road the same day (Greg Inskip), and an immature at Blackwater on May 3 (H. Armistead+). **Merlins** began with solo reports at North Beach on March 13 (Stasz), at Salisbury on March 15 (Dyke), at Pt. Lookout on March 22 (Craig), and at DC the same day (Pisano, Janni). An adult **Peregrine Falcon** was at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell, Jett, Sussman), and another was near Urbana on May 4 (Welch).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots, Wild Turkeys included 1 at Dameron on May 11 and May 24 (Craig), 1 at Phoenix Road, Baltimore County on May 17 (Simon), 2 males near Spook Hill Road, Baltimore County on May 20 (Carroll Metrick), and 11 at PWRC/North on May 21 (Arnold). A **Black Rail** was seen at Cornfield Harbor on May 10 (Bishop) where it was heard on May 11 (Craig). A **Clapper Rail** was also at Cornfield Harbor on May 13 (Craig), and **King Rails** included 1 at Nanticoke Marshes on March 24 and another at North Beach on April 8 (Stasz). Hart-Miller yielded 3 **Virginia Rails** on March 2 and 10 on April 13 (Scarpulla), and 1 was at Lilypons on April 20 (Hershberger). **Soras** included single birds at North Beach on April 13 (Stasz), at Lilypons on April 26 (Joy Peters), and at Deal Island WMA on May 24 (Saunders). Harry Armistead and several observers found a **Common Moorhen** at Elliott Island on April 13, and 6 were at Easton on May 22 (Saunders). Steve Simon and party tallied the high for **American Coot** with 300 at Loch Raven on March 9. Others included 125 at Ocean Pines on March 12 (Reese), 185 at Deep Creek Lake on March 14 (Skipper), 110 at Solomons on March 31 (Reese), 1 at Pt. Lookout on May 15 (Craig), and 2 at PWRC/North on May 26 (Arnold). A **Chukar** was reported in the River Road and Berryville Road areas of Montgomery County on March 10 (Tom Fry), March 25 (Frank Schaff), and on April 9 (Bruce Hill).

Cranes, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts, Avocets. **Sandhill Cranes** made quite an appearance this spring with an immature at South Point, Worcester County on March 7 (Dyke), 1 at PWRC on March 21 seen flying over the captive pens there (George Gee), an immature at Tilghman Island on March 22 (Reese), 1 near Lisbon on May 8 (Diane Nagengast), and 1 at Buckeystown on May 10 (Earl Fogelberg). **Black-bellied Plovers** began with 1 at Scotland, March 23-26 (Craig, Bishop), 1 at Starr on April 10 (Poet), and 2 at Blackwater on April 12 (Armistead, Bob Trever+). Later Black-bellieds were 1 at North Beach on May 24 (Stasz), 5 at Bellevue on the same day (Armisteads), and 12 at Hart-Miller on May 24 and 2 there on May 31 (Scarpulla+). A late **Common Goldeneye** was reported at Merkle WMA on May 31 (Ken DeCoster). On May 22, Connie Skipper found a Black-bellied near Pleasant Valley Road in Garrett County, an unusual location for this species. **Semipalmated Plovers** included 1 very early at Hart-Miller on April 27 (Scarpulla), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on May 3 (Ghebelian+), 7 at Scotland the same day (Craig, Bob Boxwell, Cribb), and 37 at Tanyard on May 10 (Engle). Among the many **Killdeer** were 47 at Kershner Pond on March 9 (I. & S. Cornelius), 1 sitting on four eggs at Queenstown on March 13 (Poet), 300 at Scotland on March 20 (Craig), and a nest with 4 eggs at Hooper Island on May 3 (Armistead+). Harry Armistead reported 2 **American Oystercatchers** at Hooper Island on March 19, and Jane Kostenko checked off 4 at Pt. Lookout on April 20. A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Deal Island WMA on April 30 (Lawler), 1 was at Blackwater on May 3, and 2 were there on May 10 (Armistead, Will Russell+). Scarpulla and party found 5 **American Avocets** at Hart-Miller on May 24.

Tringine Sandpipers. An early **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Kitt's Pond, St. Mary's County on March 5 (Craig), and others included 45 at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 26 (Jett), 60 at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo), 1 at Pt. Lookout on May 21 (Craig), and 1 at North Beach on May 24 (Stasz). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was at Blackwater on March 19 (H. Armistead), 2 were at Scotland on March 21 (Craig), and 40 were tallied at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo). **Solitary Sandpipers** included 12 at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo), 1 at Atkins Arboretum, Caroline County on May 18 (Reese), 1 at St. Mary's City on May 20 (Craig, Boxwell), 2 at Loch Raven on May 22 (Simon), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 28 (Ecker). Armistead and party found 5 **Willets** at Elliott Island on April 13, Hilton checked one off at Laytonsville on April 15, another was at Pt. Lookout on May 21 and 3 were at Cornfield Harbor the same day (Craig), and 2 were at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+). Patty Craig found a **Spotted Sandpiper** at

Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on April 23, over 50 were at Pennyfield and Violettes Lock on May 19 (Simonson), and 1 was at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig).

Curlews, Godwits, Turnstones. Kyle Rambo found 3 **Upland Sandpipers** at PRNAS on April 28. **Whimbrels** included 2 at Assateague on May 3 (Joy Peters), and a wonderful flock of 180 at Bellevue on May 24 (Armisteads). A **Marbled Godwit** visited Ocean City on April 15 (Reese), and 18 **Ruddy Turnstones** were at PRNAS on May 26.

Calidridine Sandpipers. Twenty-five **Sanderlings** were at PRNAS on May 26 (Craig, Bishop). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** began with 15 at Hart-Miller on April 27 (Scarpulla), and 1 at PRNAS on April 28 (Rambo); they peaked with 645 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). Two **Least Sandpipers** were at Scotland on March 26 (Craig, Bishop), 46 were at Centreville, Queen Anne's County on May 10 (Poet), 23 were at North Beach on May 15 (Stasz), and 2 were at Pt. Lookout on May 21 (Craig). **White-rumped Sandpipers** began with 2 at Red House Pond, Garrett County on May 3 (Gary Felton) and 3 the same day at Blackwater (Armistead+). Later White-rumps were 1 at North Beach on May 23 (Stasz), and 4 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). Among the early **Pectoral Sandpipers** were singles at Scotland on March 22 (Craig), and at Hart-Miller on March 28 (Scarpulla+). Late Pectoral Sandpipers were 1 at Harney Road Ponds on May 10 (I. & S. Cornelius), 2 at Tanyard on May 10 (Engle), and 1 at Fulton on May 14 (Solem). Paul DuMont reported 8 **Purple Sandpipers** remaining at Ocean City on May 18, and a **Dunlin** was notched at Pt. Lookout on March 10 (Craig). Other Dunlins were 1 at Hart-Miller on March 23 (Scarpulla+), 1 at North Beach on April 5 (Stasz), 9 at PRNAS on May 26 (Craig, Bishop), and 53 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+).

Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes. Rambo tallied 40 **Common Snipe** at PRNAS on March 8, 45 were at Scotland on March 25 (Craig), and 15 were near Grasonville on April 12 (J. Sebastiani). Highs for **American Woodcock** were 30 at PRNAS on March 8 (Rambo), and 14 near Shady Grove, Montgomery County on March 9 (Sussman). Tom and Joan Christensen reported a **Red-necked Phalarope** at Great Falls Park, Montgomery County on May 11, and 3 were at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+).

Gulls. Early **Laughing Gulls** were 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 4 (Craig), 2 at Easton on March 9 (Davis), 2 at Upper Marlboro on March 11 (Stasz), and 1 at Salisbury on March 12 (Reese). Highs were 600 at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead, Levin & Ryan Willey+), 500 at Mill Creek Preserve, Talbot County on April 20 (Reese), and 4 at Hains Point on May 30 (Pisano). From 1 to 4 adult **Little Gulls** were identified at Hart-Miller periodically from March 23 through April 13 (Scarpulla+). A **Black-headed Gull** was at Conowingo on March 7 (Les Eastman), and a first-winter bird was at Ocean City on April 15 (Reese). Inland **Bonaparte's Gulls** were located this spring with 5 at Violettes Lock on March 24 (Green), 2 at Centennial on March 31 (Farrell), and 21 at Fulton on April 12 (Solem). Two late Bonaparte's were at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+). Sam Dyke reported a breeding-plumaged adult **California Gull** at Salisbury on March 6. Kyle Rambo reported an **Iceland Gull** at Solomons Island on March 13, and Scarpulla and party found 1 at Hart-Miller on May 31. Five **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found throughout DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni), and 8 were at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). A **Glaucous Gull** was at Wilde Lake from May 15 through May 24 (Odermatt+), and 32 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were at Conowingo on May 24 (Blom).

Terns, Skimmers, Puffin. **Caspian Terns** included 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 15 (Day, Gaskill), 1 at Blackwater on April 5 (Arnold), 8 at Hart-Miller the same day (Scarpulla+), 26 at Wilde Lake on April 24 (Newmans), 87 at Blackwater on April 27 (H. Armistead+), and 398 at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla). **Royal Terns** began with 2 at Morgantown on March 22 (Jett+), 1 at Leonardtown on March 28 (Rambo), and 10 at Ocean City on April 5 (Youth). Others included 1 at Choptank on May 9 (D. Ford), 3 at Cambridge the same day (Reese), 1 at Hart-Miller on May 10 and May 19 (Scarpulla+), and 120 at Morgantown on May 10 (Jett). A **Common Tern** was at PRNAS on March 27 (Rambo), and 2 were at Hains Point on May 30 (Pisano). **Forster's Terns** included 6 on March 14 at Leonardtown (Rambo), 1 on March 19 at Hooper Island (H. Armistead), and 1 on April 5 at Salisbury (Lawler). A **Least Tern** was found at PRNAS on April 9 (Rambo), 7 **Black Terns** were tallied at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla+), and 5 **Black Skimmers** were notched at Ocean City on April 5 (Youth). Arlene Ripley reported an **Atlantic Puffin** at Pt. Lookout on March 16.

Cuckoos, Owls, Caprimulgids, Swifts. The first **Black-billed Cuckoos** were singles at Rock Creek Park on May 3 (Gail Mackiernan), and at PWRC/North the same day (Rod Burley). A Black-billed was reported at Denton on May 15 (Nuttle). A **Barn Owl** was reported on the roof of a four-story building in DC on April 5 (Matthew Pizzi), and another flew across Route 34 in Keedysville on May 31 (Huy). Earl Bassinger reported a **Great Horned Owl** on a nest at Pt. Lookout on March 15, and a Great Horned owlet was seen there on April 20 (Joe Gagli). An injured **Long-eared Owl** was found in St. Michaels on March 7 (Kelly Allen), and **Short-eared Owls** were 1 at Hart-Miller on March 2 (Scarpulla), and another at Parsonsburg on April 24 (Brodericks). Steve Huy captured 6 **Northern Saw-whet Owls** at the Lamb's Knoll banding station in Washington County on March 7. **Common Nighthawks** began with 1 at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on May 3 (Ghebelian+), and another in DC on May 4 (Pisano). Others included 18 at Lake Elkhorn on May 17 (Ecker), and 20 at Fort Smallwood on May 19 (per Ricciardi). An early **Whip-poor-will** was at Waldorf on April 4 (Jett). **Chimney Swifts** started with one each at PWRC/North on March 26 and at Bowie on March 27 (Fred Fallon), 2 at California on March 28 (Kostenko), 2 at Centennial on April 5 (Farrell, Jett), and 2 at Salisbury on April 8 (Lawler).

Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers. A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was reported near Waldorf on the early date of March 18 (Lee Duer, Jean Agnew), and another on April 13 at St. Michaels (Reese). Jim Stasz reported a migrating **Belted Kingfisher** at North Beach on March 9, and **Red-headed Woodpeckers** included 8 at Pt. Lookout on May 4 (Day), and 8 at Douglas Point Marsh, Charles County on May 16 (Jett). A late **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was discovered at Daniels on May 10 (Stirrat).

Flycatchers. A nice **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was near Governor's Bridge Road, Prince George's County on May 12 (Fallon, Robert Davis), and another was found at Seneca on May 18 (Youth). Solo **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were reported at Nassawango Creek, Wicomico County on May 22 (Lawler), and at Triadelphia Lake Road, Montgomery County on May 31 (Sussman). Single **Alder Flycatchers** were listed at PWRC/North on May 21 (Gough), and at Hughes Hollow the same day (Marie Plante). A **Willow Flycatcher** was noted at General Smallwood SP, Charles County on May 3 (Ghebelian+), and a **Least Flycatcher** was at Kensington, Montgomery County on April 28 (Ralph Whaley). **Great Crested Flycatchers** began with 1 in Wicomico County on April 25 (Dyke), 1 at Blackwater on April 27 (H. Armistead+), and 1 at Beauvue on April 28 (Tina Dew). Patty Craig reported another Great

Crested nesting in a martin house in Dameron with five eggs on May 30. Early **Eastern Kingbirds** were 1 at St. Michaels on April 20 (Reese), and another at Centennial the same day (Ecker). Don Simonson and Byron Swift reported a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Milepost 21 on the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on May 3.

Shrikes, Vireos, Corvids, Larks. No Maryland reports for **Loggerhead Shrikes** were turned in this spring. **White-eyed Vireos** began just about on time on April 19 with 1 at Meadowside Nature Center (Sussman), and 3 at Swainson's Creek Marsh, Charles County (Jett). An early **Blue-headed Vireo** was found at Wilde Lake on April 9 (Zeichner), followed by 1 each at Hollywood and Dameron on April 13 (Rambo, Craig). A Blue-headed running a bit late was at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla, Cullison). The first Wicomico **Yellow-throated Vireo** was on April 15 (Dyke), and 1 arrived in Calvert County on April 21 (Starr, Turner). Single **Philadelphia Vireos** were reported at Pennyfield on May 3 (Simonson), and at Centennial on May 10 (Mike Leumas, Anne Marie Rater). The first **Red-eyed Vireo** was in Calvert County at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 21 (Hamilton). George Jett found about 3000 **American Crows** at a roost along Route 301 near Waldorf on March 8, and Paul Fritz discovered an albino American Crow at Hancock on April 5. The high for **Fish Crows** was 200 at Nanticoke Marshes on March 24 (Stasz), and 3 **Common Ravens** were noted at the summit of Sugarloaf Mountain, Frederick County on March 11 (Kathleen McDonough). Fred Fallon found 4 **Horned Larks**, including one fledgling, on the early date of May 10 at Merkle WMA.

Swallows. **Purple Martins** began with 1 at PRNAS on March 22 (Rambo), and 2 at Wilde Lake on March 25 (Zeichner). The first **Tree Swallows** were 7 at Violettes Lock on March 4 (Green), and others were 40 at Big Mill Pond, Dorchester County on March 12 (Reese), over 100 at North Beach on April 7 (Stasz), and 200 at Dameron on April 26 (Craig). The early **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were single sightings at Lilypons on March 8 (Day, Gaskill), at Upper Marlboro on March 19 (Stasz), at Leonardtown on the same day (Craig), and in DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni). **Bank Swallows** began with 2 each at Clark's Farm, Howard County on April 7 (Wallace), and Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead, Harvey & Marion Mudd+). About 150 Bank Swallows were over Deep Creek Lake on May 10 (Skipper). **Cliff Swallows** included 3 at Triadelphia on April 14 (Solem), 1 at Leonardtown on April 25 (Rambo), 2 at Pt. Lookout on May 4 (Day, Schneider), 1 at two different spots in Charles County on May 10 (Jett), and over 130 at Deep Creek Lake the same day (Skipper). The first **Barn Swallows** were 1 at Lilypons on March 23 (Hershberger), 2 at PRNAS on March 26 (Rambo), 3 at Hollywood the same day (Craig), 2 at Bellevue on March 28 (H. & L. Armistead, Harting), 1 at Kershner Pond on March 30 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 3 at Centennial Park on March 31 (Farrell). There were about 215 Barn Swallows at Hart-Miller on May 19 (Scarpulla+). Following a large midge-type insect hatch at the west end of Deep Creek Lake, around 1350 Barn Swallows were tallied on May 10 on just a portion of this large lake (Skipper).

Chickadees, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. Patty Craig found 4 young **Carolina Chickadees** in a bluebird house at Dameron on May 1, and noted an adult there feeding a fledgling on May 24. Tina Dew reported 2 **Carolina Wrens** with a nest and 1 egg at Beauvue on March 18, which is probably an early record egg date. **House Wrens** began early with 1 on April 13 at three locations: Martinak SP (Nuttle), Dameron (Craig), and Hart-Miller (Scarpulla+). Another was at Nolands Ferry, Frederick County on April 15 (Hershberger). Patty Craig identified a late **Winter Wren** at Dameron on May 7, and Don Simonson notched a nice hard-to-find **Sedge Wren** at Pennyfield on May 17. **Marsh Wrens** began with 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 30 (Green), 2 at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead, Trever+), and 3 at Hart-Miller on

April 19 (Scarpulla+). Patty Craig found her first migrant **Golden-crowned Kinglet** at Pt. Lookout on March 11 and the last there on April 30. Roxanna Laing had a nice count of 15 in DC on March 23. A late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** was at Lake Elkhorn on May 12 (Ecker), and **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** began with 1 at PRNAS on March 22 (Rambo).

Thrushes, Mimids. A late migrant **Veery** was present at Dameron on May 23 (Craig). The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Hallmark Road, Howard County on May 7 (Ebert), 1 was noted singing at Dameron on May 11 and 1 was at St. Mary's City on May 20 (Craig, Boxwell), and another was at Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough). Jim Gruber banded a **Bicknell's Thrush** at Narnia Farm on both May 18 and May 19. The first **Swainson's Thrush** was at Pt. Lookout on April 30 (Craig), and a **Hermit Thrush** was banded at Narnia Farm on May 14, somewhat late. **Wood Thrush** got started with 1 at Rohrersville on April 14 (Anne Mitchell), and 1 at Hollywood on April 17 (Rambo). Jan Reese found an **American Robin** singing its courtship song at Trappe on the early date of March 10, and found a robin's nest with 3 eggs at Claiborne on April 26. Patty Craig observed one making its nest at Pt. Lookout on April 7. Reflecting the mild winter, **Gray Catbirds** were in evidence early with 2 at Bellevue on March 18 (H. Armistead), the first report in Wicomico County on March 21 (Dyke), 1 at Pt. Lookout on March 29 (Bell, Kostenko), 1 at Port Republic on April 7 (Turner, Starr), 1 at Williston on April 9 (A. Jones), 1 banded at Narnia on April 11, and 1 at Keedysville on April 19 (Huy). A pair of **Northern Mockingbirds** was observed collecting nesting material in a yard in Frederick on March 27 (Elise Thrasher). Two **Brown Thrashers**, one of them singing, were noted in Dameron on March 18 (Craig), 1 was at PRNAS on March 21 (Arnold), and another was in DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni).

Waxwings, Starlings, Pipits. Highs for **Cedar Waxwings** were 100 at Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough), and 146 at Bellevue on May 26 (Armisteads). Patty Craig noted a recently fledged **European Starling** at Pt. Lookout on the early date of May 27. Highs for **American Pipits** were 28 at Scotland on March 2 (Bishop, Craig), 40 at Lilypons on March 29 (Green), and 30 at Griffiths Neck Road, Dorchester County on April 5 (Green). The last pipit report was one at Lilypons on May 13 (Welch).

Vermivora Warblers, Parula. Howard County was the place for hybrid **Brewster's Warblers** this spring with one on May 10 at Jennings Chapel Road (Phil & Barbara Davis), and another checked off on May 11 at Rockburn Branch Park (Darius & Paula Ecker). Rick Sussman found another nearby in Montgomery County at Triadelphia on May 10, and Bill Dobbins located another at Rock Creek Park on May 9. The last **Tennessee Warbler** submittal was 1 at Conowingo on May 24 (Blom), and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** was checked off at St. Mary's River SP on May 18 (Schneider). An injured Orange-crowned was found near Boy Scout Road, Garrett County on May 16 (Linda Weeks). **Nashville Warblers** ended with 1 at Kindler, Howard County on May 22 (Solem). The first report for a **Northern Parula** in Wicomico County was on the early date of April 5 (Dyke); another was at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 7 (Hamilton).

Dendroica Warblers. The last **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were singles at Wilde Lake (Newmans), at North Beach (Stasz), and at Salisbury all on May 23 (Lawler), and at Washington Monument SP on May 28 (Weesner). An early **Magnolia Warbler** was noted at Patapsco SP, Carroll County on April 15 (Ed Boyd), and the last 2 were at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig). A very early **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was reported in Wicomico County on April 10 (Brodericks); the last were singles banded at Narnia on May 22 and found at Hart-Miller on May 24 (Scarpulla, Ralph Cullison). The high for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was

150 at Centennial Park on April 13 (Farrell), and the last were solo sightings at Wilde Lake (Odermatt), and Narnia (Gruber) on May 24. Sam Dyke noted the first Wicomico County **Black-throated Green Warbler** arrival on April 19, and another was in Claiborne on April 26 (Reese); the last were solo reports on May 23 at Dameron (Craig), and on May 24 at Henryton, Howard County (Solem) and at Washington Monument SP (Weesner). A **Blackburnian Warbler** was discovered along Maple Glade Road, Garrett County on April 30 (Skipper), and 2 late Blackburnians, a male and a female, were notched at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig). **Yellow-throated Warblers** were early with single reports on March 22 at American Chestnut Land Trust (Hamilton), on March 24 in Wicomico County (Dyke), on March 27 at Violettes Lock and on March 30 at Pt. Lookout (Green). **Pine Warblers** got started with 5 at Scotland on March 2 (Bishop, Craig), 4 at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on March 5 (Craig), and 1 at Hains Point and 2 at the National Arboretum in DC on March 8 (Pisano, Janni). Patty Craig observed a Pine Warbler collecting horse hair for a nest at Dameron on April 11. **Prairie Warblers** started early with solos in Wicomico County on April 10 (Dyke), at Elliott Island on April 13 (H. Armistead+), and at Dameron the same day (Craig). A **Palm Warbler** in Wicomico County on March 1 (Dyke) probably overwintered; while the first migrants were 1 at Wilde Lake on March 29 (Odermatt, Zeichner), and a Yellow Palm Warbler banded at Narnia on March 28. **Bay-breasted Warblers** were right on time with 1 at Rock Creek Park on May 4 (Mackiernan), and ended about right as well with 2 at Dameron on May 23 (Craig), and 3 at Lake Elkhorn on the same day (Ecker). The last **Blackpoll Warblers** were also on schedule with 5 at Pt. Lookout on May 30 (Craig), 1 at Hains Point on the same day (Pisano), and 1 at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). The first **Cerulean Warbler** was at PWRC/North on April 27 (Arnold), and another was at Pt. Lookout on May 21 (Craig).

Other Warblers. **Black-and-white Warblers** got started with 1 in Wicomico County on March 25 (Dyke), 1 at American Chestnut Land Trust on March 31 (Starr, Turner), and 1 at Hollywood on April 3 (Rambo). April 4 was the very early arrival date in Wicomico County for an **American Redstart** (Dyke); the next report was of two at Swainson's Creek Marsh, Charles County on April 19 (Jett). A redstart was at Hart-Miller on May 31 (Scarpulla+). Continuing the early arrival trend, a **Prothonotary Warbler** was reported in Wicomico County on April 6 (Dyke). Others, at sites where they are not known to breed, included 1 at Vantage Point on May 14 (Zeichner), 1 at Liberty Lake, Carroll County on May 17-24 (Ringler), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on May 18 (Ecker), and 1 above Laurel on May 28 (Robbins). **Worm-eating Warblers** also arrived early in Wicomico County with 1 on April 15 (Dyke), and tying the state arrival record, on the early date of April 5, were single **Ovenbirds** in Wicomico County (Dyke), at Narnia (Gruber), and at Blackwater (Green). Another was at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 7 (Hamilton). The first **Louisiana Waterthrush** was in Wicomico County on March 21 (Dyke). **Kentucky Warblers** began April 10 in Wicomico County (Brodericks); on April 18 one was in Greensboro (Marvin Hewitt). A **Connecticut Warbler** was reported from Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough). The first **Common Yellowthroat** reported was 1 in Wicomico County on April 4 (Dyke), and the first **Hooded Warbler** was there as well on April 10 (Brodericks). Another Hooded was at American Chestnut Land Trust on April 19 (Starr, Turner). A female **Wilson's Warbler** was at Stanford Boulevard, Howard County on May 30 (Farrell), and a **Canada Warbler** was at Dameron on May 26 (Craig). A **Yellow-breasted Chat** turned up at Pt. Lookout on April 22 (Cribb, Craig). Fred Fallon reported that he observed a chat perfectly imitating an American Robin at PWRC/North on May 15.

Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Dickcissels. A male **Summer Tanager** near Schooley Mill on May 5 (Craig Sholley), and one at Soldiers Delight, Baltimore County on May 18 (Donald Mattson) were at interesting locales. The first **Scarlet Tanager** was at Salisbury on

April 23 (Brodericks), and the first **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at Washington Monument SP on April 27 (Weesner). Another Rose-breasted was at Bryant Woods School in Howard County on April 30 (Ott), and they ended with one at Greenbelt Park on May 22 (Gough). Ethel Engle found 2 **Blue Grosbeaks** just a tad early at Hog Island Wharf, Caroline County on April 22, and Kyle Rambo checked off an **Indigo Bunting** about a month early at PRNAS on March 22. Wilbur Hershberger was treated to a **Dickcissel** at Lilypons on May 18.

Sparrows. Late **American Tree Sparrows** included 1 at Centennial on March 21 (Farrell, Coskren), 1 singing at Scotland on March 28 (Craig), and another at a feeder in Braddock Heights on April 7 (Jane Huy). The 2 **Chipping Sparrows** near Lilypons on March 8 (Day, Gaskill) may well have wintered locally. Patty Craig tallied about 20 chippers at Soller's Wharf Road, Calvert County on March 20, the same area where some were checked off during an earlier Winter Count. Patty discovered her first singing Chipping Sparrow for the spring at Hollywood on March 25. Jan Reese noted three **Savannah Sparrows** at St. Michaels on March 21, and others included 3 in DC on March 22 (Pisano, Janni), and 50 at Scotland on March 28 and 40 at Pt. Lookout on April 30 (Craig). **Grasshopper Sparrows** were just about on schedule this spring with the first at Ridge on April 27 (Bishop, Craig). Todd Day reported a **Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Pt. Lookout on May 4, and Jim Stasz found a **Seaside Sparrow** at North Beach on April 13. Another Seaside was at Elliott Island the same day (H. Armistead+), and one was at Pt. Lookout on April 27 (Craig, Bishop). The high for **Fox Sparrows** was at Pt. Lookout with 6 on March 15, the same location for the **Song Sparrow** high of 100 on March 10 (Craig+). Scarpulla and party tallied 97 Song Sparrows at Hart-Miller on March 28. Sam Dyke reported a singing **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Nassawango Preserve, Worcester County on May 14, and Patty Craig turned in the high for **White-throated Sparrows** with 756 at Pt. Lookout on March 10. Bob Ringler found a lingering White-throat at Gunpowder Falls Road, Carroll County on May 18 and one was banded at Narnia on May 22. A late **White-crowned Sparrow** was under a feeder near Old Middletown Road, Frederick County on May 16 (I. Cornelius). About 100 **Dark-eyed Juncos** were tallied at Dameron on March 11 (Craig), and a late junco was at Washington Monument SP on May 24 (Weesner).

Snow Buntings, Icterids, Cardueline Finches. Hart-Miller hosted 14 lingering **Snow Buntings** on March 8 (Scarpulla+), and the high for **Bobolinks** was 450 at Fort Smallwood on May 15 (per Ricciardi). The high for **Red-winged Blackbirds** was 2500 at Cambridge on March 10 (Reese). Eighteen **Eastern Meadowlarks**, many exhibiting courtship behavior, were noted at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on the early date of March 5 (Craig). Two meadow-larks were seen in DC, an uncommon location for this species, on March 8 (Pisano, Janni). Twenty-five **Rusty Blackbirds** were tallied at Edgewood on April 21 (Les Eastman), and another 25 were checked off at Myrtle Grove WMA on April 27 (Jett). About 3000 **Common Grackles** were massed at Cambridge on March 10 (Reese), and a pair of Common Grackles was seen making a nest on April 30 at Pt. Lookout where one was observed feeding nestlings on May 21 (Craig). **Orchard Orioles** began with 1 at Schooley Mill on April 26 (Ecker, Zeichner), and 1 was at a suet feeder in Garrett County on May 23 (Joyce Colbert). A first-year male **Baltimore Oriole** was seen at a feeder at Williston, Caroline County from Feb. 3 through April 14 (A. & R. Jones, Engle). A male **House Finch** was seen feeding a recently fledged youngster at Dameron on May 19, near where a **Pine Siskin** was observed from March 6 through April 28 (Craig). Eighteen Pine Siskins were listed at Mill Creek Preserve, Talbot County on April 20 (Reese). Ten **Evening Grosbeaks** were in a yard in Frederick on March 21 (Elise Thrasher), and one was noted at PWRC/North on May 9 (Arnold).

BOOK REVIEW:

CHECK-LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS OF THE AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, 7TH ED., 1998

Allen Press, Lawrence, KS. 829 pp.

Ever since 1886 the A.O.U. Check-list has been the standard for classification and distribution of North American birds. Initially North America was defined as that part of the continent and associated islands lying north of the Mexican border, plus Greenland and Baja California. In the 6th edition (1983), Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, and the Hawaiian Islands were added and Greenland was dropped.

For each species, the Check-list gives Latin name and original citation, English name, Habitat, Distribution (breeding, winter, migration, and casual or accidental records outside the normal range), and frequently additional Notes on relationships with other species. All previous editions included the standard number that was assigned to each species way back in 1886 (e.g., 766 = Eastern Bluebird). These numbers were widely used for labeling eggs and bones, and as shorthand in field notes, and they are still used for coding bird banding and other records. Regrettably, these numbers were dropped in the 7th edition.

For most species that nest in the continental United States the accounts in the 7th edition are detailed, occupying about half a page each; but for resident Latin American, Caribbean, and Hawaiian species as many as four to six species may be covered in a single page. In the 4th and 5th editions there was a separate account for each subspecies, but this feature was omitted in the 6th edition and only partially restored in the 7th through recognition of "groups" within certain species. Five groups are recognized under Dark-eyed Junco; and two are recognized for the Winter Wren (the American *hiemalis* group and the Old World *troglodytes* group), but no groups are recognized for the Song Sparrow, for which 31 subspecies were listed in the 5th edition.

The Contents pages in the front of the book provide a handy index to the 23 Orders of North American birds and to the families and subfamilies under each, with their official Latin and English names. And following the Preface is a handy list of Latin and English names of all 2,008 species in their latest accepted sequence. This is where you can quickly glance through the list of 29 vireo species to verify that *Vireo solitarius* is once again called the Blue-headed Vireo. But you may have trouble finding the vireos if you have not heard that shrikes and vireos now precede the jays and crows.

Another innovation in this edition is a list of official French names for all species. The Index, however, includes only Latin and English names. You will find it is easier to locate a species by its English name than by its Latin name, as the Latin species name is not indexed under its genus.

Because scientists are constantly learning more about the relationships among species, through their songs, their DNA, and their behavior, we can expect more lumping and splitting, and more changes in names and in taxonomic sequence in the future. —Ed.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

CAREY RUN SANCTUARY BLUEBIRD BOX TRAIL

Carey Run Sanctuary, located near Finzel, Maryland, has been the site of a bluebird box trail for over 30 years. The trail has changed through the years as the sanctuary expanded and as fields became overgrown. During the 1997 breeding season, 36 nest boxes for bluebirds were available in five of the sanctuary's fields.

Bluebirds began nesting in late April with the first eggs observed on April 26th and the first young recorded on May 11th. The second nesting cycle started in early June. The last eggs were seen on July 5th, and the last young were noted on July 20th. Seven bluebird pairs produced 33 eggs and 22 young, an average of 4.71 eggs and 3.14 fledglings per attempt. The fledgling rate was 67 percent. In 25 years of records, bluebird nesting attempts have ranged from three to thirteen; total number of eggs has ranged from 15 to 65, and the number of fledglings has ranged from 8 to 40. Fledgling rates varied from 38 to 100 percent.

Three other species used the nest boxes in 1997: Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Black-capped Chickadees. Tree Swallows begin their single nesting cycle in late May (May 24th) and concluded in early July. They produced 10 nests, 40 eggs, and 26 fledglings, averaging 4.00 eggs and 2.60 young per nesting. This was a success rate of 65 percent. House Wrens nested repeatedly from late May to mid-August. Eleven nestings resulted in 70 eggs (6.36/nest) and 56 young (5.09/nest) with a fledgling success rate of 80 percent. A single nesting of chickadees resulted in seven eggs and six young (86 percent successful). Chickadees nested from late May through late June.

Four old nest boxes were replaced with the aid of Kent Cadotte and Dr. Charles Hager. June Bracken, and Sara and Sean Devlin assisted with checking the nest boxes.

Bill Devlin

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 53rd annual conference of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held in Garrett County at the Wisp Hotel on the weekend of May 15-17, 1998. The 231 registered attendees enjoyed the program and spotted 144 species of birds on field trips. Friday evening's speaker was Dr. William Sladen, Director of Environmental Studies at Airlie Center in Warrenton, Virginia. The title of his talk was "Restoring Trumpeter Swans to the Chesapeake Bay." MOS president Bob Rineer presided over the annual business meeting on Saturday evening, May 16. New officers elected were Norm Saunders (President), Karen Morley (Vice President), Kathy Neugebauer (Secretary) and Jeff Metter (Treasurer).

Fran Pope and Connie Skipper of Garrett County took the lead roles in organizing and coordinating the activities of the conference. Field trips were planned by Gwen Brewer and Kevin Dodge. Barbara Johnson and Barbara Boone organized an art exhibit displaying the work of eight local artists. The conference preparation team also included a number of key workers from neighboring Allegany County — Gwen Brewer, Roy Brown, Gladys Faherty, Charlotte Folk, Kathleen Helker, Charlotte Icardi, and Steve Icardi. In addition, Mary Twigg, Bob Twigg and others also gave generously of their time. Sybil Williams coordinated a silent

auction. The total proceeds (\$1,552) were donated in the name of MOS to Nature Conservancy programs in Garrett County. Dave Brinker and Sue Riccardi arranged presentations of research papers on Saturday afternoon. John Malcolm organized the competition for the conference pin. This year's winner was Gemma Radko of Montgomery County, whose design of a Black-throated Blue Warbler aptly captured a Garrett County bird seen by many at the conference. Bob Rineer presented recognition awards to Jo Solem for her work on the Long-term Planning Committee and to Linda Bystrak for her work on the Education Committee.

The society's next conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Solomons Island in Calvert County on the weekend of May 14-16, 1999.

Lou DeMouy, Chairman

COUNTY LIST COMPILER

This was the twelfth year the MOS compiled locality lists submitted by its members. For 1997, 71 observers submitted list totals, down two from last year. Of these 71, five were first-time submitters (up one from last year). Currently, 155 observers are in the database, reflecting that not everyone submits updated list totals each year.

Administrative note: I am considering purging the database of observer data that have not been updated within the last five years. This policy would keep the database reasonably fresh and provide a method to deal with people whose membership in the MOS has lapsed, including former members who have moved away or are deceased. Some listing organizations (like the ABA) will publish only those totals that are submitted and signed each year. My proposed policy is more generous and considers that some members just don't get around to updating their lists each year. I will not implement such a policy without at least a year's advance warning. Let me know what you think.

"Maximum" locality numbers represent the total number of species reported in a given locality. The maximums used in the 1997 report came from the *Official List of the Birds of Maryland* (March 1998) for Maryland, and the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland* (Third Edition, May 1996) for the counties. New species are being added to each county's list annually.

Administrative note: There is currently no committee or MOS administrative body that tracks the maximum number of species for each county. The MD/DC Records Committee no longer reviews "county firsts" and the current numbers from the "yellow book" are becoming outdated. Therefore, I am asking for a volunteer from each county to track and report the county totals (the "maximum" numbers) to me each year. Some counties, such as Howard, Harford, and Cecil already have people that track these data. Please contact me directly if you are willing to do this.

The actual county list data were reported in Volume 18, Number 3 of *The Maryland Yellowthroat* (May/June 1998).

Phil Davis, MOS County List Compiler
Pdavis@ix.netcom.com (301) 261-0184

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

According to an Account Inquiry I received from MOS Treasurer Jeff Metter, the following grants were disbursed in FY 1997-1998:

Anne Arundel County Chapter	\$200.00
Baltimore Chapter	\$200.00
Carroll County Chapter	\$198.60
Carroll County Chapter	\$200.00
Cecil County Chapter	\$200.00
Harford County Chapter	\$200.00
Howard County Chapter	\$200.00
Maryland Envirothon	\$400.00
Montgomery County Chapter	\$200.00
Nanjemoy Creek Envir. Ed. Center	\$200.00
(should have been reported in 1996-1997)	
Washington County Chapter	\$200.00

Maud Banks, Chair

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

We received materials from the estate of Irving Hampe, first president of the MOS. These included original art work, collections about birds, Mr. Hampe's field notes, and many of his journals. His ornithology journals, bird banding journals, oology journals and those of which we already have a complete series were given to Scott Johnson, professor of ornithology at Towson University. Mr. Hampe's decoys were appraised by John Sullivan, a specialist in Upper Chesapeake Bay items, who identified them as to their origin, their carver, their dates and their value. Many of these items will be offered in silent auction in upcoming MOS Conferences. Gloria and Irving Meade of Montgomery County MOS provided much valuable help in organizing these materials.

We received materials from the estate of John Sommer (1880-1965). Mr. Sommer was a contemporary of Frank Kirkwood, one of Maryland's early ornithologists. The committee had been alerted to the existence of these records ten years ago by Brooke Meanley, one of our members who knew Kirkwood and Sommer. We were able to come to an agreement acceptable to John Sommer, Jr. when we made a contribution of \$100 to the Food Truck Fund of Northern Baltimore County, an effort to provide food for the homeless, in exchange for the items. We believe it was well worth it.

Both the above collections are housed at Cylburn in two large metal cabinets, one funded by the Library budget, the other funded by the Baltimore Bird Club. They are in a room on the third-floor landing. For access to these collections for use and browsing, please contact the committee, Joy Wheeler, chair, 410-825-1204.

A stamp identifying *Life Histories of North American Birds* as a donation of the MOS has been made available to an MOS volunteer to the Enoch Pratt Free Library to imprint each unit of the series.

Jay Wheeler, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Since this report marks my retirement as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, I'd like to take the opportunity to make a few brief observations.

During my 18 years in this position, certain concerns have been ongoing; they will probably remain priorities in the foreseeable future. Timely publications, effective publicity, and membership expansion are three of the most important. Stable financing is vital to the Society's research, scholarship, education, and sanctuary efforts. Participation in the World Series of Birding, initiated this year, may become a permanent source of funding. In addition, encouraging the membership to consider bequests or regular gifts could also make a noticeable difference in the success of ongoing programs.

MOS is dedicated to furthering the understanding and protection of Maryland birds and their habitats. These aims are fulfilled in various ways; among them are individual field work, annual counts, county and state publications, and projects such as the statewide atlas. All these endeavors utilize the formidable knowledge, long-term commitment, and intense interest of a sizable proportion of its members.

Environmental horizons have widened in the past two decades as members have worked individually and collectively to aid birds on their breeding, migratory, and wintering grounds. This organization has become an increasingly important player in these efforts and its role is likely to increase.

While optics and references have become more sophisticated and birders more skilled, this increased competence has been a change of degree rather than of focus. MOS continues to be a volunteer organization with birds as its primary interest, though many individuals exhibit an eclectic absorption in other aspects of the natural world.

Along with success in increasing our knowledge of Maryland birds and maintaining a commitment to habitat preservation, the first 53 years of this Society have offered ample opportunities for fun and friendship. With continued clarity of purpose, the long-range potential for MOS looks bright.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairman

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

During the 1997/98 fiscal year one research grant was awarded; G. Michael Haramis and Gregory D. Kearns received \$2,000.00 for the proposal "Length of Stay, Survival, and Habitat Use of Fall Migrant Sora (*Porzana carolina*) on the Patuxent River Marsh as Determined by Radio Telemetry." This study represents continuation of ongoing research and funding of the one proposal deferred from last year. No additional proposals were received. At the close of fiscal year 1997/98 the MOS research grant fund contained \$1,066.32. The income during fiscal year 1997/98 from interest on the research endowment amounted to \$3,373.87. The balance in the MOS Research Grant Fund at the beginning of the 1997/98 fiscal year was \$4,440.19.

The Research Committee organized the 10th annual afternoon paper session for the 1998 conference. Since its inception in 1989, a wide variety of topics have been covered in the 43

paper presentations. The annual conference is the singular opportunity for people interested in birds in Maryland to share their knowledge with others from across the Free State. All MOS members, professionals and amateurs alike, are encouraged to participate in projects that increase the knowledge of Maryland birdlife, to present their findings at the annual conference, and to publish in *Maryland Birdlife*.

David F. Brinker, Chairman

SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

During the past year, three work days were held: two at Irish Grove and one at Carey Run. At the fall work day at Irish Grove we were able to scrape and prime one half of the roof of the pole barn. We had hoped to complete the roof work at the spring work day, but because of rain we had to postpone it. Instead we built a new longer bridge along Rail Trail and moved the older shorter one to a new location. We hope to complete the roof work at the next fall work day.

At the Carey Run work day the house was cleaned and trails pruned. One big problem there is that beavers have established themselves in the pond and have enlarged the pond so much that water was spilling over the earthen dam and causing erosion to the dam. We are in the process of installing some "baffles" in hopes of correcting the situation.

Slow, but steady, progress is being made on the revision of the sanctuary guide. The new guide will have more information and better maps. The sanctuaries will be listed by category as to their type of use, with more space allotted to those sanctuaries that have facilities. It is my goal to have this guide in print before the end of the year.

One major concern for our sanctuaries is the increasing cost of maintenance, especially for Irish Grove. We need to decide just what we want our sanctuaries to be, how much it will cost, and from where the money is to come.

Thanks again to all those wonderful volunteers who give their time and effort to make our sanctuaries places of peace, beauty, and refuge.

Dorothy M. Mumford, Chairman

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Our committee is now operating with several new members who have expertise in evaluating applicants and one who has personal knowledge of Audubon workshops. This year we again contacted all public schools in Maryland to recruit candidates for scholarships. Also, the newly formed Publicity Committee helped us.

We received 19 applications this year and were able to award nine scholarships. Next year I expect we will be able to give out ten. This year's winners were: Martha Barss, David Belford, Martha Damon, Liz Davis, Tod Hall, Theodore Kallmyer, Matthew Minloch, William Offutt, and Colleen Reilly. None of this year's winners were scheduled to attend the Annual Conference.

Mrs. Isa Sieracki, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER
MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
OPERATING FUND
Financial Report for Fiscal Year
May 1, 1997 through April 30, 1998

<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
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INCOME

Dues	\$18,000.00	\$17,925.00
Transfer SanEnd	\$630.00	\$630.00
Investment Income	\$1,200.00	\$1,812.98
Income, miscellaneous	\$1,000.00	\$2,927.05
Mail permit contribution	\$42.50	\$42.50
Environmental Fund MD	\$1,500.00	\$3,454.99
TOTAL	\$22,372.50	\$26,792.52

EXPENSES

MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

Printing	\$6,000.00	\$4,844.38
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$816.65
Labels, etc.	\$200.00	\$88.25
YELLOWTHROAT		
Printing	\$6,000.00	\$6,702.52
Postage	\$1,000.00	\$1,332.16
Labels, etc.	\$400.00	\$126.18
TOTAL	\$14,600.00	\$13,910.14

ADMINISTRATIVE

President	\$100.00	\$—
Vice President	\$50.00	\$—
Secretary	\$100.00	\$—
Treasurer	\$150.00	\$69.00
Executive Secretary	\$2,400.00	\$2,563.12
Postage	\$400.00	\$490.90
Bulk Mailing Permits	\$255.00	\$255.00
Membership List	\$550.00	\$651.49
Printing/Duplication	\$250.00	\$—
Office Supplies	\$150.00	
Publicity/Awards	\$300.00	\$28.85
Affiliations	\$325.00	\$225.00
Liability Insurance	\$300.00	\$180.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$191.65
Telephone	\$600.00	\$568.29
TOTAL	\$6,430.00	\$5,223.30

COMMITTEE RELATED

Atlas	\$200.00	\$-
Budget	\$25.00	\$-
Conference	\$1,200.00	\$-
Conservation	\$1,000.00	\$-
Education	\$100.00	\$-
Gifts	\$20.00	\$287.00
Library	\$250.00	\$-
Long-range Planning	\$50.00	\$409.00
May Count Coordination	\$50.00	\$-
Nominating	\$50.00	\$-
Records	\$250.00	\$-
Research	\$50.00	\$-
Scholarship	\$125.00	\$-
Speakers Bureau	\$50.00	\$126.98
TOTAL	\$3,420.00	\$822.98

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$24,450.00	\$19,956.42
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CONFERENCE

1997 Conference	Income	\$6,911.00
	Expenses	\$19,534.00
1998 Conference	Income	\$39,642.00
	Expenses	\$11,836.31
1999 Conference	Income	
	Expenses	\$1,000.00

OTHER OPERATING FUNDS

Maryland Atlas	Begin	\$865.51
	Expenses	\$636.00
	Balance	\$229.51
FUNDAECO	Begin	\$193.67
	Income	\$153.00
	Expenses	\$193.67
	Balance	\$153.00
Brazil IEF	Begin	\$800.00
	Income	
	Expenses	
MOS Brochure	Balance	\$2,879.26
MOS Conference	Balance	\$3,000.00
Index Maryland Birdlife	Balance	\$1,340.00

SANCTUARY FUND**INCOME**

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
Transfer—Endowment Fund		\$3,355.00	\$4,660.31
Interest Income		\$1,500.00	\$245.07
Sales		\$250.00	\$660.00
Use Fees		\$1,000.00	\$316.00
TOTAL		\$6,105.00	\$5,881.38

EXPENSES

Carey Run	\$1,000.00	\$1,534.80
Irish Grove	\$4,000.00	\$6,051.93
Liability Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$720.00
Contingencies	\$2,000.00	
TOTAL	\$8,000.00	\$8,306.73

SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT**INCOME**

Life Memberships	\$400.00	
Contributions	\$200.00	\$230.00
Investments	\$4,000.00	\$5,060.31
TOTAL	\$4,600.00	\$5,290.31

EXPENSES

Bond Maint.	\$15.00	
Transfer, Oper. Fund	\$630.00	\$630.00
Transfer, Sanct. Fund	\$3,355.00	\$4,660.31
TOTAL	\$4,000.00	\$5,290.31

EDUCATION FUND

\$4,200.00

\$2,527.22

SCHOLARSHIP FUND**INCOME**

Contribs.—Endowment	\$400.00	\$100.00
World Nature Assn. Schol.	\$850.00	\$595.00
Gibson/Mendenhall Schol.	\$850.00	
Div./Int. Investments	\$4,000.00	\$4,484.49
TOTAL	\$6,100.00	\$5,179.49

EXPENSES

MOS Scholarships	\$4,000.00	\$5,285.00
Orville Crowder Schol.	\$850.00	\$595.00
Gibson/Mendenhall Schol.	\$850.00	
TOTAL	\$5,700.00	\$5,880.00

RESEARCH FUND

INCOME			
Contributions	\$100.00	\$-	
Div/Int	\$2,000.00	\$3,373.87	
Carry-Over		\$1,066.32	
TOTAL	\$2,100.00	\$4,440.19	
EXPENSES			
Grants	\$2,600.00	\$2,000.00	
TOTAL	\$2,600.00	\$2,000.00	
DONATIONS, BEQUESTS RECEIVED		\$6,130.56	

Jeff Metter, Treasurer

**ANNUAL REPORTS OF CHAPTERS****ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER**

Our year began with the fall bird count on September 13; 15 participants found 114 species. Kevin Dodge of Garrett Community College spoke on Night Sounds at our Annual Dinner on October 18. Speakers at our other meetings were Roy Brown, one of the artists for the Breeding Bird Atlas; Jeff Peters, speaking on Gadwalls; Julie York, discussing Black-necked Stilts; Gladys Flaherty, who used slides taken by the late Dr. Richard Johnson to illustrate a talk on Wildflowers; and Jon Boone, who spoke on Bluebirds.

Field trips took us to Carey Run Sanctuary for a September picnic, to the Brooks Bird Club banding station at Dolly Sods in Tucker County, West Virginia; to Town Hill to observe the fall migration of raptors; to Shawnee State Park in Pennsylvania; to Garrett County ponds in late March; and to the Powder Mill banding station near Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

Twenty-three observers tallied 68 species on the Christmas Count, and 24 participants found 59 species a month later on the Midwinter Count. The May Count had 20 observers and a fine total of 147 species.

Visiting members from other MOS Chapters joined us for the annual spring clean-up at Carey Run Sanctuary, and 24 of our members helped with the annual MOS Convention at Wisp in Garrett County. Our chapter donated \$200 to the Wolf Swamp Habitat Restoration Project.

Gladys Faherty, President

ANNE ARUNDEL BIRD CLUB

A year of interesting lectures and great field trips was enjoyed by all. The lectures, which are the main function at our eight monthly meetings during the year, were excellent. Highlights included: Steven Hult's talk and slides about the birds, mammals, reptiles, geography, and

geology of the Galapagos including an insight into El Niño; Ben Poscover's *The Partnership of Migrating Shorebirds and Horseshoe Crabs* including the current status of the Horseshoe Crab issues; our Richard E. Heise, Jr. Annual Wildlife Program about *Wildlife Gardening* by Richard Pais and finally, to end the year, Velvet Kitzmiller talking about *Rehabilitating and Respecting Wildlife*.

Organizing the lecture series, arranging for and taking the speakers to dinner before the programs, and other miscellaneous assistance to me were the hard and greatly appreciated work of Sue Ricciardi, 2nd Vice President and Program Chair. Our lectures always include refreshments provided by many volunteers and organized by our Secretary, Laura Glass. Thanks to the volunteers and especially to Laura for all of her hard work, including organizing the Christmas Count Tally-up food and refreshments.

The 31 field trips took 104+ folks to both local and far-ranging locations to look for birds. Larry Zoller, 1st Vice President and Field Trip Chair, made sure the trips were varied and to good locations, including a trip to Smith Island and cruising the bay, where we had good looks at gannets. To date, 236 species have been seen. My thanks go to Larry and all of the trip leaders for making them all successful. Peter Hanan's Maniac Tours with 11 birders went to Sault St. Marie in February with Bohemian Waxwing, Boreal Chickadee, Gyrfalcon, Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl and Snowy Owl as target birds. All were seen except for the Great Gray Owl.

The Club donated \$500 to the MOS 1998 World Series of Birding. Fall and Spring picnics rounded out the year.

Al Haury, President

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

During this past year, the Baltimore Bird Club has continued its support of educating people about birds and their roles in our lives. Using funds from the MOS Education Committee, six schools received subscriptions to *Audubon Adventures*, bringing the total to 18 subscriptions over the past three years to *Audubon Adventures*. New undertakings include a mural display to be installed on the second floor of Cylburn depicting the Web of Life at Cylburn. This display, under the direction of Joy Wheeler, Patsy Perlman and Jim Peters, was supported by the Etta Wedge Education Fund and the Martin Fund.

As usual, students from various schools visited Cylburn for an educational guided trip around the grounds and mansion. This year, nine BBC volunteers took part in leading 20 school tours.

Following the bird survey of Gwynn Falls/Leakin Parks in 1996, BBC received a \$1,000 grant from the Heritage Museum to conduct an additional bird survey of the Parks in 1997-1998 as a part of a larger wildlife census of the area.

The Baltimore Site Guide was finally completed. The Guide was put together in response to requests by members in a mailed questionnaire several years back for a collection of information on popular birding locations in Baltimore City and County. Many individuals volunteered their time and effort in putting it together. Recognition and their contributions can be found in the Guide.

One person who deserves special thanks from all members is the editor of *Chip Notes*, Steve Sanford. His contribution is one of the least recognized, but it is this contribution that keeps members informed about the Club. Similarly, Terry Ross, who manages the BBC web site, also deserves recognition. It is through the web site that BBC is known throughout the world. In addition, thanks also must go to Leanne Pemburn, who monitors and manages the Baltimore Bird Line.

With the coming of a new season, a new group of officers were elected. Thanks are due to departing officers and board members — Debbie Terry, VP; Bob Wood, treasurer; Joe Lewandowski, Gail Frantz, and Elliot Kirschbaum, board members. It has been a wonderful experience serving with all of you.

Sukon Kanchanaraksa, President

CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Carroll County Bird Club's 1997-1998 season was busy and fun. We held eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College or Bear Branch Nature Center with an average attendance of 21 members and guests. The featured speakers covered many topics of interest including "Planting for Wildlife" (Sue Yingling and Kathy Gilleland), "The Status of Bald Eagles in Maryland" (Glenn Therres), "Birding Observation Skills" (David Holmes), "Cinnamon and Birds of Indonesia" (Hank Kaestner), "Birds and More from the Galapagos" (Greg Kearns), "Birds of Australia" (Don Messersmith), "Maine Memories" (Bob Ringler), and "Bats" (Bill Kulp, Jr.). Thanks to Laura Tarbell for coordinating refreshments and the many members who treated us with goodies!

Volunteers Bill Ellis, Dave Harvey, Mark Hoffman, Bill Kulp, Jr., Bob Ringler, Dave Smith, and Jerry Tarbell led both planned and spontaneous field trips to Carroll County hot spots as well as more distant trips to view fall raptor migration at Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain, winter congregations at Black Hill Regional Park and Lilypons Aquatic Gardens, and early spring migrants at Point Lookout. We also had a wonderful Presidents' Day weekend birding trip to the Eastern Shore.

Volunteer efforts weren't limited to field trips. Several members participated in the annual fall count, the winter count, and May bird count. These bird counts were made more memorable by the delicious meals and tally rallies that followed at Laura Tarbell's, Kathy Harden's, and Amy Hoffman's homes. Sue Yingling served on a committee that developed the newly opened Hike-Bike-Bluebird Trail at Carroll Community College. Maureen Harvey and Roxanne Yeager represented the club's interests at Teaming with Wildlife meetings. Amy Hoffman, Mark Hoffman, and Jerry Tarbell wrote many letters for the club to endorse, to public officials and private companies concerning Teaming with Wildlife and the preservation and maintenance of wildlife habitat. Erma Gebb planted cheerful flowers and Gerry Mathias helped out at Piney Run Nature Center.

Our club is pretty close and many friendships have been found and strengthened by shared fun at social events such as our annual January Holiday party, hosted by Sue and Splinter Yingling with great food, high spirits, and hilarious games.

We were happy to add several new members this year who have brought new enthusiasm into our already exuberant group. Conversely, we were sorry to have our long-time Treasurer, Barb Gaffney, and helpful spouse George move off to the wilds of Garrett County (lucky for

the western counties, though). We won't get to see them as often but know they're never too far away for a quickie weekend visit. Thanks, Barb, for serving so faithfully, and for teaching our next Treasurer, Greg Klein, the ins and outs of this very important position.

Maureen F. Harvey, President

CECIL BIRD CLUB

The Cecil Bird Club was very active in boosting the membership and increasing club name recognition. Club brochures and field trip schedules were placed throughout the county at libraries, garden centers, local "feed" stores, nature centers, and waterfowl museums. Club activities were placed in local newspapers, in weekly calendars and with local birding columnists, as well as on-line mention. Also being used for the first time is local cable channel advertising. We also attended several community events with a club display, where brochures, etc. were handed out. Thanks to Scott and Kelly Powers for orchestrating these events, and to Ken Drier and Marcia Whitmyre for planning and time commitments as well in all of the above mentioned. Scott also agreed to take over as field trip chair in December 1997. He has been doing an excellent job ever since in getting us to many excellent Cecil Sites and beyond. A "birding by ear trip," listening for whips at a state park, "Cecil shorebirds" and "Conowingo eagles and waterfowl" give an idea of trip variety. We have been seeing new faces on field trips and at meetings through the spring '98 schedule, so are heartened by this good sign. Like several of the other counties, we really struggle to maintain a decent membership. Marcia Whitmyre asked me if I would be willing to take over as President due to her busy work schedule. I agreed, and was duly elected at our September 1998 meeting. Marcia remains as Vice-President, and has been a great help in "showing me the ropes." Other folks mentioned above have also been a wonderful support, as well as Jonah Goodwin, who remains as secretary/treasurer. The county gained some notoriety in November 1997 with the appearance of a Pacific Loon. Area birders also enjoyed a good winter for finches, with appearances of Evening Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills.

Leslie Fisher, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

We started our year by participating in the Koi festival at Lilypons Water Gardens. It was a great event for us. We added several new members while they were visiting our booth. Our first program was a real hit with the members, young and old. Mark Spurrier of the Maryland Parks and Recreation service presented his Scales and Tales program. At this meeting we also started a series of short presentations focusing on separating look-alike species pertinent to the time of year. Everyone seemed to gain from the crash courses.

We had ten regularly scheduled membership meetings and 14 outings including no fewer than five bird counts. At our meetings Paul O'Brien took us on a wonder foray into the wilds of coastal Texas. Everyone wanted Paul to lead a trip for the chapter ASAP. Bernice Culver shared her incredible talents as a carver of birds and wildlife and challenged us to complete a Canada Goose head that she handed out. I haven't seen any finished carvings yet. Our annual Christmas dinner was delicious as usual. Dave Harvey took us to Kruger National Park in Africa with wonderful slides and incredible stories. It's nice to know that such wilderness still exists.

Once again, we were honored to have Stauffer Miller as a speaker. He shared slides from South America and Japan. The wonderful variety of birds is truly amazing. He seems to organize excellent trips. Where do I sign up? We were thrilled to go back to Australia with Beth Zang. This was a real "outback" trip. We were camping in primitive settings and having a marvelous time. The birding was extraordinary. We learned details of the wonderful life history of the horseshoe crab, and how tens of thousands of shorebirds are dependent on this fragile resource for their successful northward migration. Ben Poscover's presentation left us all thinking about the Delaware Bay and how wonderfully complex the web of life really is.

Field trips were well attended and delightful. From Lilypons to coastal Delaware, we found a great variety of species and many members added treasures to their life lists. Highlights included a Greater White-fronted Goose at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Bald Eagle at Black Hill Reservoir, and Red-headed Woodpeckers and Ruffed Grouse in our county.

We are looking forward to our annual picnic to be held in late June. Will the Red-shouldered Hawks be fledged by then?

Wilbur Hershberger, President

HARFORD BIRD CLUB

Our club decided to make an early start on the year by having a summer social at the Anita Leight Estuary Center in Abingdon. This is a new facility concerned with research and educational programs. The number of participants exceeded initial expectations, and we now plan on repeating this each summer. The social featured light fare and conversation in an informal atmosphere. The guest speaker was Mr. Keith Pardieck of the U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division, who presented a program on the North American Breeding Bird Survey.

We officially started our 49th year with our annual picnic at Rocks 4-H Camp. This year's crowd was one of the largest ever. Tom Congersky and Randy Robertson provided ample delicious fare for all. The White Elephant auction featured auctioneer Randy Robertson, who held out for the highest bid on each item. Treasurer Joyce Gorsuch was very pleased with the results, which greatly enriched our depleted bank account. The annual bird walk was held up by the merriment provided by the auction.

Our club continues to grow slowly. It seems as though we have plenty of new members, and people in the community appear very interested. Unfortunately, we also lose members because of transfers or other reasons.

We continue our three dinner meetings per year at Churchville Presbyterian Church. The church women can no longer provide a meal in January, but we continue with a meeting and a guest speaker. The November meeting featured Linda and Paul Bystrak, who presented a program on the Pilot Serpentine Barrens in Cecil County. The January meeting provided Mark Johnson with an opportunity to return to the front of the room, and he presented a slide show on the pros and cons of ecological risk assessment. Dave Brinker had a reprise as speaker in March, and his program was concerned with the status of Saw-whet Owls. The final dinner meeting in May featured Dr. Deidre DeRoia, speaking about the status of wildlife on Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Mark Johnson "retired" as club president and was replaced by Larry Fry. Mark was kept very busy by his two young sons, doctoral research, and his full time job on Aberdeen Proving Ground. Mark was president for two years and contributed to the progress the club has made. He received a gift of the Breeding Bird Atlas at the summer social. We hope to keep Mark involved and maybe he will return as president in the future.

Les Eastman continues to improve the appearance and presentation of the newsletter, making it one of the best in MOS. He also has created and maintains the club's web site. He is a real webmaster, and the club members greatly appreciate his efforts.

The club offers a wide variety of field trips, usually four or five per month. Dave Webb and members of the field trip committee continue to do an outstanding job planning and coordinating them. The trips are well publicized in local media outlets, thanks to the efforts of Jean Williams, and we continue to attract new members and other participants through these trips.

In addition, the club participated in the Fall Count on Sept. 20, the Christmas Count on Dec. 29, the Mid-winter Count on Jan. 31, and the International Migratory Count on May 9. The Christmas Count had the largest number of participants ever, and we finally achieved our long-standing goal of going over 100 species. A total of 103 species were found.

For the past several years, the bird club has provided a donation to the county Envirothon competition. This year we increased our contribution to \$150.

The annual Earth Day celebration in Havre de Grace features exhibits from many environmental organizations. We have our display there every year and hand out copies of the county checklist and newsletter. Many questions are asked by people attending, usually beginning with, "What kind of bird...?"

Winners of the annual club awards were: County Lister, Dave Webb; Distinguished Service, Jean Williams; Rookies of the Year, Ruth Wilsey and Glen Hedelson; and Birds of the Year, crossbills at Broad Creek Memorial Camp, BSA.

This year the club decided to enter into a partnership with the Anita Leight Estuary Center. Heather Helm, Chief Naturalist at the center, proposed that the club develop a garden for the birds. Members provided \$465 in contributions. The garden will include shrubs and perennials to attract birds and butterflies, and we are also going to construct bird feeding stations and bird houses. The club presented a copy of the *Breeding Bird Atlas of Maryland and the District of Columbia* to the center for its reference library.

An education grant of \$22 was received from MOS to donate copies of the *Breeding Bird Atlas* to Harford County Libraries and to the County Historical Society. We will have to apply for another grant next year to complete the objective of having a copy in each major library in the county.

Finally, three projects are yet to be completed. One long-standing project is to print a brochure describing birding in Harford County. We are also developing a slide program featuring the birds and birding locations in Harford County. The last project is to provide a detailed brochure describing birding sites in the county. Hopefully this year will see completion or more progress on these projects.

Larry Fry, President

HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER (25th Anniversary Year)

The opening meeting in September brought together for special mention four of our founding members who remain active birders and naturalists in Howard County. Several early members were also invited to come back and share memories.

Fall activities included a Butterfly Search in late August, the fourth annual Fall Count in September, something new in October — a Geology Jaunt through the county, and the annual Sundays in November series of bird walks around Lake Centennial.

Winter brought the Triadelphia Reservoir Christmas Count, a chance to start our New Year's List on New Year's Day, which may become an annual event, the Mid-winter Count early in February and Pot Luck Dinner late in the month.

Our annual Spring Sundays at Centennial began in March and continued into April, which may be a permanent change. May Count and the 1998 Conference at Deep Creek Lake rounded out the year.

The nine monthly programs brought Mike Mennett of the Watkins Wildlife Nature Center, Paul Spitzer, the Chesapeake's foremost loon researcher, former chapter President Ralph Geuder's Galapagos Islands presentation, Craig Sholley's program on the Masai Mara and mountain gorillas, Hank Kaestner searching for cinnamon in Indonesia, Dave Brinker on Saw-whet Owls, an update on Central America by Chan Robbins celebrating the 25th anniversary of his first program for the club, Greg Kearns on the Texas Gulf Coast, and finally closing as we opened with a 25th-year memory, Larry Hood, another founding member, came back to our chapter to present our last program, "Birding in England." Kudos to Jane Geuder, program organizer!

Special thanks to Bonnie Ott for organizing field trips, walks, and leaders and to Mary-Jo Betts for the Pot Luck Dinner.

To our Count Coordinators Mike McClure, Chuck Stirrat, David Holmes, Jo Solem, and Paul Zucker and to our Seasonal Records coordinator Jo Solem and Annual List compiler Jane Coskren we owe a debt of gratitude, for this is where the most serious purpose of our club is met.

In addition to the above, Karla Pearce took over organizing our presence at the Howard County Fair, Marty Chestem put together displays at all our meetings and the Fair, Paula Ecker got our newsletter out and Elayne Metter got the word to the media, Eileen Clegg handled the Fall Seed Sale which allows us to make substantial contributions in the area of local and international conservation, and Marty Chestem and Tom Strickwerde continue to get out the issues of *Maryland Birdlife* for MOS.

Finally, I want to thank all those who have served on our board of directors, faithfully attending county and state meetings and helping make the decisions which allow us to serve so many. This club remains vital and active. We maintain numerous core events in ornithology and add new adventures in other disciplines such as botany, entomology (butterflies and dragonflies), and geology as our membership grows and changes.

Maud Banks, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

The Jug Bay Bird Club completed a busy and productive year. We held extra board meetings in Shady Side and Upper Marlboro to decide and plan our future. We are making an effort to reach the birders in the Southern Maryland areas by rotating meetings and field trips in those areas. Marilyn Guerra, VP, and Mike Callahan, Publicity, were busy planning our yearly calendar to meet those needs. Betty Porter created the newsletters, Jean Tierney graciously accepted the Secretary position, and Bob Courtemanche remained as our trusty Treasurer. Gary Flenner is guiding our club as our Director, and Dale Johnson accepted the President's position.

Our activities included Clean-Up Day at the Wildfowl Trust and presentation of a pair of binoculars to Nanjemoy Education Center in Charles County. They also received a grant from MOS for more binoculars for the students. JBBC also asked for a grant to build a new traveling display. At our Director's suggestion, the club leaped in to volunteer to host the '99 Conference, along with Southern Maryland Audubon and Anne Arundel Bird Club. All of our officers are involved in the year-long process.

The annual functions include the December Christmas Party with members' slide show, Christmas Bird Count, elections in March, Bluebird Trail maintenance at the Park, a June picnic and boat trip on the Patuxent River.

Our field trips were varied and prolific. We traveled to Waggoner's Gap for hawks; to Chincoteague with our Florida Annex of the JBBC, for a showy array of waterfowl, and a Christmas parade; New Year's Day trip to Ocean City and Delaware for Harlequins, eiders, Snowy Owls, Snow Buntings, and a Ross's Gull, led by Bob and Anne Courtemanche; and our own Patuxent River Park birding and boat trips to our "club bird," the Sora rail.

The monthly speakers delighted and informed us with tales from Australia by Mary Kilbourne and Greg Kearns; SE Arizona videos by Dale Johnson; Whooping Crane show-and-tell by Matt Kinloch.

Our new season has begun with a flurry of activity surrounding the '99 Conference with many committee meetings in Southern Maryland.

We thank our officers and members for their continued hard work, and look forward to an exciting and productive new year.

Dale Johnson, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter remains small, with about 50 members, of whom only about 20 are active. We lost two good members: Maggie Duncan, a State Director for our Chapter for more than 20 years, was in ill health and moved to Maine to live with her son; and our Treasurer, Robert Regester, died in April of 1998. We miss the fellowship and guidance of both of them.

We had seven meetings throughout the year, with topics ranging from Steve Hitchner's report on 11 years of study of bluebirds in his bluebird boxes, and Jim Gruber's report on the bird-banding station we support, to Cavity Nesters and Bird Songs. Field trips had sporadic

attendance, with the most popular being to the Ted Harvey tract in Delaware, and Blackwater Refuge. Other field trips included Conowingo Dam, Bombay Hook, and Chesapeake Farms. Our chapter remains involved in activities at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge, with the heavy involvement of members Howard McIntyre and Dolly Minis, who lead most of the birding trips there, and help at the refuge by other members when the need arises. We finished the year with a picnic at Turner's Creek Park.

We manned a table at the Chestertown Wildlife Show in October of '97 and also had a display at the Earth Day Celebration in Centreville in April of '98. We sponsored the Gibson-Mendinhalh Scholarship, which was won by Tod Hall of the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art in Salisbury. We also had a yard sale to earn money for the chapter and our bird-banding station's nets.

Gail Regester, President

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Chapter's year began on a sad note, with the death in June of Claudia Wilds. In addition to her many contributions nationally and regionally, Claudia had long enriched the life of the Chapter. She served as President, presented slide lectures, offered expert advice, and led regular field trips — to the Zoo, to the shore. In her will, Claudia left us her ornithology books and slides. We have arranged for the bulk of the book collection — enhanced by book-plates designed by Pat Moore — to be housed at Black Hill Visitor Center, while books on shorebirds will go to the library at the Audubon Naturalist Society. The Chapter also received ornithology books from the estate of long-time member Bob Hahn. These were made available to members, per his wishes, at the April meeting.

A series of Thursday evening walks to check on the Dickcissels near Lilypons, along with outings to Bombay Hook and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuges, tided us over the summer. In the fall a burst of trips (scheduled by Linda Friedland) took us to Rock Creek Park, the emerging Rachel Carson Conservation Park, the C&O Canal, canoeing on the Potomac, Blackwater NWR, and Cape May.

At our monthly meetings (organized by David and Helen Gray), Susan Salmons reported her research on Northern Spotted Owls, Chan Robbins took us Wintering with Neotropical Migrants in Central America, member Gail Mackiernan entertained us with a lively picture of birding in Peru, and photographer Bob Mumford shared his exquisite slides from Churchill, Manitoba. The November meeting featured a bake sale, organized by Linda Friedland. In December the Chapter hosted the State Board meeting at Black Hill Visitor Center.

Members participated in Breeding Bird Surveys in county parklands in June, hawk watches in the fall, and several Christmas Counts. The Chapter sponsors the Seneca count, and Chapter members also coordinate the DC, Triadelphia, and Sugarloaf Counts. MCC members also coordinate the May Count.

We kept open the lines of communication with our 300+ members through the bimonthly *Chat*, edited by Janet Millenson, and our *MccBird* Web page, masterminded by Kathy Neugebauer. This year we added a recycling-library table at our meetings, supervised by Mieke Mehlman. In January, the local newspaper ran an enthusiastic story on the Club. In February, the Chapter extolled the virtues of birding, and of the MOS, in an exhibit at the Potomac

Library. And we printed "wallet cards" containing Chapter information to hand out to potential recruits that we meet along the byways. We also took a vocal role in reviewing the evolving Master Plan for Black Hill Regional Park.

Winter saw many of us chasing crossbills near Liberty Reservoir. The traditional winter excursion to the Outer Banks, in addition to serving up Painted Buntings and Cinnamon Teal, gives the Chapter a chance to reciprocate the hospitality offered by the local North Carolina bird club: chapter member Bill Oberman showed them the same tantalizing glimpse of birding in Tanzania that he had presented to the Chapter in January. Other meetings featured chapter members Bill Young recounting his recent bird-travels to Australia and Don Messersmith describing rare cranes he studied in poor and remote provinces of China. In May, DNR waterfowl biologist Larry Hindman outlined "The Mute Swan Dilemma." Spring migration highlights included outings to Point Lookout, Roosevelt Island, and Garrett County.

For the third year in a row, the Club's annual Social (organized by Dillon Rankin) took place in March at a Chinese restaurant in Rockville. About 80 members attended, and a highlight, as usual, was the members' slide show. In April, we helped Chapter member Denise Gibbs install plantings for her innovative Bluebird Habitat at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood, financed by a \$5,000 grant from the MOS. More than 40 Chapter members attended the state conference, and several played prominent roles: Lou DeMouy organized it, Sybil Williams ran the highly remunerative silent auction, and Gemma Radko designed the winning pin.

Lydia Schindler, President

PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Bird Club held its monthly meetings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Bioscience Building on the fourth Tuesday of each month during September-November and January-May. This year proved to be busy, productive, and rewarding.

Topics at our meetings this year included: Birds of Costa Rica and Panama with information on photography, travel, and locations by Cortez C. Austin, Jr.; Habitat Studies in powerline rights of way, sludge piles, and wetlands by Dr. Matt Perry; Birding in the West by Paul A. Zucker; Birding video tapes; Birding in Hungary and Poland by Dr. Donald Messersmith; Neotropical Migrant Landbirds at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, including breeding bird distribution and habitat use during migration; and Members' Night with slide and video presentations by members. The annual bird walk and picnic were scheduled for June 13 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Other activities included participation by club members in local bird counts and birdathons, participation by several chapter members in Central American neotropical studies and preservation efforts, and donations by the chapter to help support local Central American conservation groups. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Eleanor Robbins, continues to carry out an active advocacy role on conservation issues.

Tom Loomis, President

TALBOT CHAPTER

During the '97-'98 season the Talbot Chapter's membership grew to 83 paid members. We conducted over 46 morning bird walks and five all-day field trips.

In September we participated in the "Open House" at Horsehead Wetlands Center and celebrated the purchase of additional acreage for this sanctuary, aided by a bequest from our deceased member, John Wanuga. Last month our chapter placed a permanent bench outside the information center at Horsehead in memory of John, and a bronze plaque will be placed on the bench before the end of this month.

Bernie Burns, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY

The Washington County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society held its meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center on the fourth Tuesday of the months September through April, at 7:30 PM. There was no meeting in December or May; the summer months' gatherings were picnics followed by some birding.

Our year began in September with a potluck dinner followed by a presentation on falconry and raptor conservation by Floyd Presley, a Maryland falconer. He brought a new view on the subject to us as well as a beautiful Harris's Hawk that he uses in his sport. I also had other speakers I knew through my work with raptors and migration: Steve Cardano spoke about Ospreys along the Patuxent, Sue Salmons on Northern Spotted Owl populations in Oregon, and Gavin Shire on how ultra-light aircraft are being used to teach waterfowl to migrate. Dave Brinker also spoke about Maryland's biodiversity. All gave excellent presentations to our group. I thank each of them for travelling all the way to our county to share their knowledge and experiences with us.

Field trips were made to locations throughout the state. Overnight trips were taken to Dolly Sods in West Virginia for fall warbler migration, and to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. The chapter voted to support the efforts of the Teaming With Wildlife coalition. A much-needed donation of a mist net was made to my Saw-whet Owl banding project as well.

We lost two of our members in November, John Thrasher and Clarence Parker. They will both be missed by all of us.

I was grateful for the opportunity to serve this office. Unfortunately, the demands of my career and my work with raptors made it difficult to do so, and I've had to give up the position after only a year. I'd like to thank the fellow officers who supported me during this time. Special thanks go to our secretary, Janet Shields, for stepping in and taking over during those times when I couldn't be there and for reminding me to be there the days I did make it. I'd like to also thank past president Dave Weesner for his dedication to the chapter as president, enthusiastic member, and coordinator of our Christmas and Spring counts. I'm sure he will be welcomed back to the position of president. I wish him a strong membership!

J. Steven Huy, President

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MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Household: \$15.00 plus chapter dues Junior: (under 18) \$5.00 plus chapter dues
Sustaining: \$25.00 plus chapter dues

Cover: Great Horned Owl at Elliott Island Road. Night photo by Luther Goldman using strobe light.



FIRST MARYLAND PIEDMONT RECORD FOR SUCCESSFUL NESTING OF DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT

BILL AND SUE WENDELL

On Monday, April 27, 1998, at the suggestion of bird watchers viewing the Great Horned Owl's nest near where Seneca Creek enters the Potomac River in Montgomery County, we went to observe the Great Blue Heron rookery on Watkins Island in the Potomac River between Swain's Lock and Pennyfield Lock. The rookery can be viewed easily from the C&O towpath at milepost 18.3 (a stick with a red ribbon having 18.3 printed on one side) and is best reached going approximately one mile southeast from Pennyfield Lock on the C&O towpath. An 8 to 10 a.m. viewing is encouraged to benefit from proper lighting. A telescope, although not essential, is of definite value since the nesting site is approximately 1,000 feet across the Potomac River from the viewing area.



Figure 1. View across the Potomac River showing the major portion of the Great Blue Heron colony on Watkins Island (Nikon Series E Zoom 75-150 mm lens at 75 mm, FUJI 400 film).



Figure 2. Sycamore tree on east side of rookery containing Double-crested Cormorant nest, the nest at the extreme left (same lens and film as in Figure 1).

Using a 40-power telescope, we counted at least 30 nests with either adult or young Great Blue Herons on every nest. The nests (Fig. 1) are concentrated in the upper branches of two large sycamore trees, at a height of approximately 60 feet above ground, directly across from the viewing area, with a few nests in a tree slightly removed to the right. When feeding was in progress, no fewer than two young were observed in the nests. The young were approximately half the size of the adults.

While scanning the nests, we observed that the left-hand sycamore tree (Fig. 2) had a smaller nest at the far left side, which was that of a Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*). It was about 55 feet above ground and contained two adult cormorants that were actively engaged in nest building, i.e., working small sticks into the nest. We viewed these birds for about an hour and then hurried home to read more about these nests in the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Finding that neither the Great Blue Heron nor the Double-crested Cormorant nests were reflected in the *Atlas*, we contacted Chan Robbins at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center to find out whether these nests had been reported since the issuance of the Breeding Bird Atlas. He indicated that they had not and informed us that, while the Great Blue Heron rookery would be a first for Montgomery County, the Double-crested Cormorant nest would be a first for the Maryland Piedmont and requested that additional information and photographs be obtained. The following summarizes our findings regarding Great Blue Heron and Double-crested Cormorant nest sites in Montgomery County.

Great Blue Heron Nests

We checked with many people who participated in bird counts of this area of the C&O towpath and concluded that the Great Blue Heron rookery on Watkins Island is two or three years old. During subsequent visits on May 18, June 1, and June 25, we viewed adults and

young on these nests in various stages of development. Adult birds were observed both in the C&O canal and on the Potomac River, obtaining food and returning to the nests to feed the young. In the process of our research, we were informed that there was an additional Great Blue Heron rookery on an island in Whetstone Lake in Montgomery Village, Maryland.

On Thursday, April 29, we visited that rookery and were pleased with excellent views of 12 nests. All 12 had young, with three the maximum number we observed. The nests were approximately 35 feet above ground and were located in what appeared to be dying conifers. The rookery is close enough to the Whetstone Lake shoreline to easily view the herons with binoculars. The rookery can be reached by traveling north on Route I-270 to Montgomery Village Avenue in Gaithersburg, then going east on Montgomery Village Avenue for about a mile to the entrance to the townhouses just prior to viewing Whetstone Lake, and finally by taking a right and then an immediate left down to the small park at the lake. The island is directly in front of the boat rental dock. We apologize for having no information as to when this rookery was established.

Subsequent Visits

On Monday, May 18, we returned to the viewing area south of Pennyfield Lock to view the Double-crested Cormorant nest. An adult bird was sitting on the nest in a manner suggesting that it was on eggs. During the one hour we viewed the nest, the adult rose at least three times and made motions similar to that of turning eggs.

On Monday, June 1, we returned to the viewing area with camera equipment in hopes of capturing a photograph of young on the nest. Although we saw no young, we obtained pictures of both adults on the nest (Fig. 3) and observed the standing adult providing food to the adult



Figure 3. Adult Double-crested Cormorants on nest (Tamron SP 500 mm lens with Nikon TC-200 2X teleconverter; FUJI 400 film).

sitting on the nest. During our one mile hike to the viewing area, we saw a family of Double-crested Cormorants on a rock in the Potomac River approximately 100 yards from our vantage point on the C&O towpath. The family consisted of two adult and three immature birds. On our return hike to our car, the three immature birds were still situated on the rock but the adults



Figure 4. Adult Double-crested Cormorant with two young on nest (same lens and film as in Figure 3).

were not seen in the immediate vicinity. This would suggest that other Double-crested Cormorant nesting may be present in this area of the Potomac River and that persons birding this area should make an effort to locate other possible nesting sites.

On Thursday, June 25, we again returned to the viewing site and were able to photograph an adult with two fully grown young on the nest (Fig. 4). The young were constantly exercising their wings on the edge of the nest, and were obviously ready to leave.

20560 Anndyke Way, Germantown, MD 20874-2805

A MID-APRIL POTOMAC RIVER WALK

STAUFFER MILLER

On a recent visit to Frederick County, Maryland, I decided to do a walk along one of my favorite stretches of the Potomac River in this county, a portion between Brunswick and Knoxville. The bank of the river in this section tends to be relatively free of underbrush and flood debris, thereby permitting rather easy Riverside walking. The date was April 17, 1996.

As I approached the Potomac that morning and started walking to the west, I immediately saw numerous small squadrons of Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) flying upstream. Intermixed were Tree (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Barn (*Hirundo rustica*), and Northern Rough-winged (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) Swallows. This was the most migrating martins I had ever seen.

Shortly, a much larger bird with white head and tail swooped over the water — Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)! These great birds are a decided rarity in Frederick County and always a treat to see. As if trying not to be outdone in riparian splendor, an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) screeched and circled overhead. Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) lazed on mid-stream rocks.

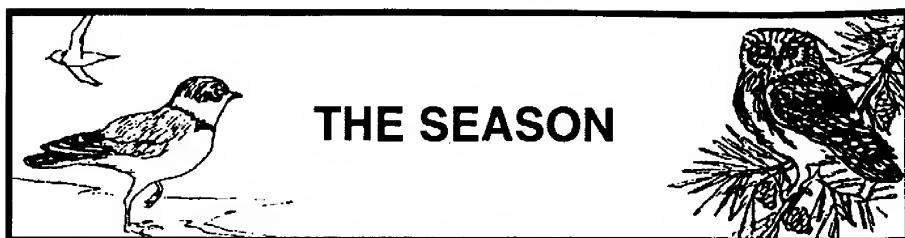
Sensing that I might be on sort of a roll, I eagerly pushed on. Next was a Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) in lustrous breeding plumage, only ten feet out from the bank. Following this show, I noticed white birds with dark hoods bobbing in some mid-stream riffles. These were Bonaparte's Gulls (*Larus philadelphia*), again a relatively uncommon Frederick County bird. While scoping them, what should pop to the surface but a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*), my first for the county away from reservoirs.

But not all activity was on and over the water. In the nearby treetops, a squeaky song caught my ear — Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*). Then in a low scrub, a Palm Warbler (*D. palmarum*) darted about. Last, a high-pitched song that I first mistook for that of a warbler turned into that of a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*).

I have walked Frederick County's portion of the Potomac River bank many times, but never have I seen such massed and such rapid-fire and exciting avian activity along it as on that particular April morning.

Yes, the Potomac can indeed have its special days.

72 Keveney Lane, Yarmouthport, MA 02675



BREEDING SEASON, JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1997

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

Following a rather damp and cool spring, temperatures in June were a little below average, warming to about average in July. The summer was very dry, however, especially on the Eastern Shore.

Observers: Henry Armistead, Tyler Bell, Bob Boxwell, Danny Bystrak, Martha Chestem, Dennis Coskren, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Lynn Davidson, Harold Dunlop, Sam Dyke, Ward Ebert, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, Jane Kostenko, Doug Lister, Doug Odermatt, Danny Poet, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringler, Sue Schneider, Stephen Simon, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Paul Spitzer, Laura Sprague, Chuck Stirrat, Eva Sunell, John Taylor, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Hal Wierenga.

Abbreviations: DC — District of Columbia, NWR — National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS — Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SF — State Forest, SP — State Park, WMA — Wildlife Management Area.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Adam Island (Dorchester), Assateague Island (Worcester), Barren Island (Dorchester), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore), Holland Island (Dorchester), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaqundi (Howard), Kings Creek Preserve (Talbot), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Pone Island (Dorchester), Poplar Island (Talbot), PRNAS (St. Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's), PWRC/North (Anne Arundel), Rock Lodge Trust (Garrett), Spring Island (Dorchester), Tar Bay (Dorchester), Tydings Island (Harford), Vantage Point (Howard).

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels. A **Common Loon** was found inland at Loch Raven on June 4 (Simon), 4 were at Bellevue on June 8, where a rather high mid-summer count of 6 was made on July 26 (H. & Gordon Armistead). Another Common Loon was near North Beach on July 19 (Bystrak). Chris Swarth reported a **Pied-billed Grebe** at Jug Bay on June 26. Marshall Iliff reported the first Pied-billed Grebe nesting record for Talbot County with 2 adults and 3 juveniles at Easton Sewage Plant on July 4. Two adults were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on June 3 and July 19, but apparently they did not nest this year (Dyke). A June 8 pelagic trip out of Ocean City recorded a **Cory's Shearwater**, 4 **Manx Shearwaters**, and some **Sooty Shearwaters** and **Greater Shearwaters**, along with some **Wilson's Storm-Pe-**

trels (Brian Patteson). A fishing trip out of Ocean City on July 10 produced 4 Cory's Shearwaters, 7 Greater Shearwaters, 1 **Audubon's Shearwater**, and 50 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (Ed Boyd). Marty Cribb spotted 7 Wilson's Storm-Petrels over the Chesapeake Bay in Somerset County on July 23.

Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. Eighteen **Northern Gannets** were seen off Assateague on June 4, and 12 were notched there on June 8 (Dyke). Armistead and Spitzer totaled up wonderful numbers of **Brown Pelicans** in the Bloodsworth area, 80 birds, including 42 at nearby Spring Island alone on July 5. Twenty-two Brown Pelicans were checked off at Point Lookout SP on June 5 (Schneider), and an immature was spotted at Barren Island on June 12 (Armistead, Taylor). Pt. Lookout SP hosted 11 **Double-crested Cormorants** on June 23 (Craig), and Armistead and Spitzer checked off 235 in the greater Bloodsworth Island area on July 5. Paul Pisano watched two Double-crests building a nest in Montgomery County along the Potomac River on June 13. Singles were in Howard County at Wilde Lake on June 20 (Odermatt), and at Lake Kittamaqundi on June 21 (Chestem).

Herons, Ibises. Jan Reese found an **American Bittern** and 2 **Least Bitterns** at Kings Creek Preserve on July 26. A **Great Blue Heron** was at Mt. Nebo WMA, near Oakland on June 22 (Skipper). Armistead and Spitzer found 90 Great Blue nests on Bloodsworth Island and 10 nests on Adam Island on July 5. Martha Chestem monitored the three-nest Great Blue herony at Vantage Point, a beaver-created wetland area at the west end of Lake Kittamaqundi, and reported 9 young fledged on June 20. Chestem also reported a **Great Egret** at Vantage Point on July 12. Other Great Egrets included 18 at Centennial for a new Howard County high on July 19 (Norma & Ray Peterson), 50 at Blackwater on July 19 (Armistead), 24 at Loch Raven on July 29 (Simon+), and a flock of 5 flying over eastern Columbia on July 31 (Ebert). Harry Armistead checked off 40 **Snowy Egrets** at Blackwater on July 19, and a **Little Blue Heron** was at Vantage Point on July 30 (Chestem). Sue Schneider reported a **Tricolored Heron** at Pt. Lookout SP on June 19, and Patty Craig counted 31 **Cattle Egrets** at Ridge on June 30. Eighteen **Green Herons** were at Pt. Lookout on July 29 (Cribb, Kostenko, Bell). A **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was seen at PWRC/North from May 19 through June 30 (Bystrak), and it looked like there were perhaps 3 breeding pairs on Bloodsworth Island on July 5 (Armistead, Spitzer). Two adult Black-crownededs were at Pt. Lookout on July 29 (Cribb, Kostenko, Bell). Bloodsworth Island also hosted a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** on July 5 (Armistead, Spitzer), and 2 juveniles were near Monocacy Bottom Road, Frederick County on July 31 (Jim Green). Eight **Glossy Ibis** were at Blackwater on July 19 (Armistead).

It is interesting to note that Harry Armistead reported that for about the fourth straight year, Holland Island had "a clean sweep" of Maryland's breeding herons. Estimated pairs by Harry and Paul Spitzer on July 5 were as follows: Great Blue Heron 20, Little Blue Heron 20, Black-crowned Night-Heron 10, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron 6, Great Egret 25, Tricolored Heron 3, Glossy Ibis 1, Snowy Egret 15, Green Heron 1, and Cattle Egret 3. Unfortunately, this island is eroding at an ever faster rate.

Turkey Vultures, Waterfowl. Two juvenile **Turkey Vultures** were found by Connie Skipper's son and his friend near Forster Road, Garrett County on July 19. **Canada Geese** included 38 young at Centennial on June 4 (Farrell, Coskren), and a total count of 875 at Blackwater on July 19 (Armistead). **Mute Swans** included 21 at Scotland on June 2 (Craig, Boxwell), 2 adults with 6 young at Kent Narrows on June 7 (Poet), and 89 at Bloodsworth Island on July 5 and 55 in the Barren Island-Tar Bay area on June 12 (Armistead+). A young Mute Swan was noted at Centennial on July 19 (Farrell). Armistead and Taylor found a **Tundra Swan** at Tar

Bay on June 12 and Dave Webb found an **American Wigeon** at Tydings Island on July 23. Armistead and Taylor reported 12 **American Black Ducks** at Barren Island on June 12. **Mallards** included 150 at Golden Hill, Dorchester County on June 8, and nests with 7 and 10 eggs at Barren Island on June 12 (Armistead, Taylor). A **Green-winged Teal** was found near North Beach on July 19 (Bystrak). Farrell and Coskren discovered a female **Canvasback** at Centennial on June 4 and again on July 12, and also reported an interesting sighting of a pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** at Centennial on June 4. Farrell saw a solo female Ring-necked there on July 12. On June 16, three **Lesser Scaup** were located at Oxford (Reese). Patty Craig and party spotted a **Surf Scoter** at Pt. Lookout on June 30, and an injured, adult male Surf Scoter was at Bellevue on July 27 (Armistead+). An **Oldsquaw** was seen near North Beach on June 24 (Bystrak), and a male **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Pt. Lookout on June 13 (Craig). An injured female **Ruddy Duck** was at Gateway Marina, Talbot County on June 8 (Armistead).

Ospreys, Eagles, Hawks, Falcons. **Ospreys** included 1 at Wilde Lake on June 20 (Odermatt), and 23 pairs nesting on Bloodsworth Island on July 5 (Armistead, Spitzer). It was another good year for breeding **Bald Eagles** in Maryland, with a new record of 219 nesting pairs from 18 counties (Maryland DNR). An adult and 2 immature Bald Eagles were noted at Barren Island on June 12 (Armistead, Taylor). There were a few interesting reports of **Cooper's Hawks** this season. Two adults and an immature were sitting in an oak tree at Lothian on July 10 (Susse Wright), and while a nest was not located, Reese observed a very agitated Cooper's at McGinnes on August 1. Patty Craig reported an immature Cooper's at Dameron on July 24, and an adult **Broad-winged Hawk** there on June 22. Armistead and Spitzer observed a female **American Kestrel** in unusual habitat at Bishop's Head Hunting Lodge, Dorchester County on July 5, and checked off an adult **Peregrine Falcon** at Adam Island the same day.

Turkeys, Bobwhites, Rails. Jay Sheppard discovered a roost of about 10 to 12 **Wild Turkeys** near Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on June 28, and Connie Skipper had a nice count of 5 adult and 20 juvenile Wild Turkeys near Oakland on July 13. Two toms were found at Prettyboy Reservoir in Baltimore County on July 24 (Carroll Hetrick). The only Howard County report of **Northern Bobwhite** was of 2 at Schooley Mill Park on June 1 (Ebert). Only 2 or 3 **Black Rails** were heard at Elliott Island on June 27, and one was seen on June 28 (Davidson, Wierenga). The only other Black Rail report was of one at Kings Creek Preserve, Talbot County on July 26 (Reese+). Four **Clapper Rails** were found at Barren Island on June 12, and 2 at Holland Island on July 5 (Armistead+). Two **King Rails** were at Elliott Island on June 7, where several **Virginia Rails** were heard the same night (Davidson, Wierenga). A King Rail and 3 Virginia Rails were also reported at Kings Creek Preserve on July 26 (Reese). A **Common Moorhen** was at Decoursey Bridge over the Transquaking River, Dorchester County on June 28 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 2 were at Elliott Island on July 19 (Armistead). Moorhens were also discovered breeding at Easton Sewage Plant with an adult and 2 young on July 4 (Iliff). An **American Coot** was visiting Centennial on June 1 (Farrell, Coskren).

Plovers, Stilts, Avocets, Tringine and Upland Sandpipers. Two northbound **Semipalmated Plovers** were at Blackwater on June 12 (Armistead, Taylor). Steve Simon checked off 42 **Killdeer** at Loch Raven on July 20, and Davidson and Wierenga listed 2 **Black-necked Stilts** at Elliott Island on June 28. A juvenile **American Avocet** was reported in Gaithersburg on July 31 (Mike Welch). Two **Greater Yellowlegs** were at Blackwater on June 8 and one was there on June 12 (Armistead, Taylor). There were 28 **Lesser Yellowlegs** inland at Loch Raven on July 26 (Simon, Jenkins, Dunlop). Martha Chestem found 2 **Solitary Sandpipers** at Lake Kittamaquundi on July 10, and a flock of 9 **Willets** were flying over Holland Island on July 5 (Armistead, Spitzer). A Willet nest with 3 eggs was found on Barren Island on June 12.

(Armistead, Taylor). Farrell and Coskren reported 2 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Centennial on June 4, and one at Font Hill Park in Howard County on June 21. Eight **Upland Sandpipers** were notched at PRNAS on July 8 (Rambo), and 12 were there on July 17 (Lister+).

Ruddy Turnstone, Calidris Sandpipers, Dowitchers. A **Ruddy Turnstone** was at Pt. Lookout on June 7 (Craig), and on June 12, Armistead and Taylor found a Ruddy and 5 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Barren Island, and 6 **Sanderlings** at Tar Bay. They also checked off 12 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Blackwater on June 12. Another semipalm was at Pt. Lookout on June 5 (Schneider), and Simon and Jenkins had a nice count of 210 southbound Semipalmated Sandpipers at Loch Raven on July 31. Ten **Sanderlings** were at PRNAS on July 29 (Lister, Sprague). Dave Weesner located 2 **Western Sandpipers** at Harney Road Pond near Emmitsburg on July 21. A migrant **Least Sandpiper** was seen at Jug Bay on June 1 (Bystrak), 1 was at Scotland on June 30 (Craig, Cribb), another was at Loch Raven on July 6 (Simon), 4 were at Fulton on July 20 (Farrell, Coskren), and 18 were at Scotland the same day (Cribb, Schneider). A **Dunlin** was discovered at PRNAS on July 17 (Rambo), and a **Ruff** was reported at Loch Raven on July 27-29 (Taylor McLean, Simon, Debbie Terry+). There were 38 **Short-billed Dowitchers** at Cecilton on July 14 (Gary Griffith, Rose Taylor, Charles Gunther), and one was near North Beach on July 19 (Bystrak).

Gulls. Armistead and party counted 435 **Laughing Gulls** at Golden Hill on June 8, and at least 12 breeding pairs on Spring Island on July 5. At Barren Island, Armistead and Taylor found 17 Laughing Gull nests with a total of about 18 eggs. Four hundred Laughing Gulls were at PRNAS on July 16 (Rambo). **Ring-billed Gulls** included 10 immatures at Centennial on June 1 and an adult there on June 27 (Farrell, Coskren), an adult at Golden Hill on June 8 and another at Bellevue on July 4 (Armistead+), and 18 at Oxford on June 16 (Reese). Armistead, Spitzer, and Taylor surveyed **Herring Gulls**, finding at least 190 pairs at Tar Bay on June 12, where 22 nests were found with about 50 eggs, and at least 250 breeding pairs at Spring Island on July 5, where about 26 nests were found containing at least 38 eggs. They also found around 5 pairs of breeding **Great Black-backed Gulls** at Spring Island on July 5.

Hart-Miller Island hosted an **Iceland Gull** on June 8, 2115 Ring-billed Gulls and 13 **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** on June 14, and 2078 Herring Gulls and 685 Great Black-backed Gulls on June 21 (Gene Scarpulla).

Terns, Skimmers. Two adult **Gull-billed Terns** were reported flying over Poplar Island on July 4 (Iliff). Two **Caspian Terns** were spotted at Jug Bay on July 12 (Bystrak), and 231 **Royal Terns** were banded at Ocean City on July 8 (John Weske). Two **Sandwich Tern** nests were found this season at Ocean City, but apparently the young were short-lived (Dave Brinker). It is sad to note that for the first time in years, Harry Armistead found no *Sterna* tern nests in Dorchester County. Kyle Rambo tallied 150 **Forster's Terns** at PRNAS on July 23, and 102 **Least Terns** there on July 14. A **Black Tern** was also at PRNAS on July 29 (Lister, Sprague). Danny Bystrak noted a **Black Skimmer** at North Beach on June 4, and another was at PRNAS on July 7 (Rambo).

Doves, Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers. Four wild **Rock Doves** were found on a mostly submerged hunting lodge at Barren Island on June 12 (Armistead, Taylor). Two young **Barred Owls** were observed at Cornfield Harbor on June 29 (Craig). On July 6 Martha Chestem watched about 100 **Chimney Swifts** enter a shaft in the Columbia Mall that had been a roost for some years, but due to mall expansion the roost is now gone. Jan Reese discovered a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** sitting on a nest with eggs at St. Michaels on July 8. Two

adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were observed bringing food to a nest at Pt. Lookout on July 20 (Craig, Boxwell).

Flycatchers, Warbling Vireo, Fish Crows, Swallows. An **Eastern Kingbird** was feeding 2 young in a nest at Wilde Lake on July 19 (Odermatt). Darius Ecker reported a late **Olive-sided Flycatcher** at Lake Elkhorn on June 13. At least 1, and maybe 2, **Willow Flycatchers** were heard and seen at Greenbury Point, Anne Arundel County on June 17 (Ricciardi). This species is a rare breeder on the Coastal Plain. Another **Willow Flycatcher** was at PRNAS on June 11 (Lister, Boxwell). Betty Pitney heard a **Warbling Vireo**, probably a late migrant, singing in her backyard at Parsonsburg on June 6. Pt. Lookout hosted 32 **Fish Crows** on July 31. Pitney found a pair of **Tree Swallows** nesting in a bluebird box in Wicomico County at Wor-Wic Community College and noted 6 young on June 4. A migrant **Bank Swallow** was at Holland Island on July 5 (Armistead, Spitzer), and a colony of **Cliff Swallows** continues at the Route 32 bridge in Sykesville (Stirrat). Ethel Engle counted 132 **Barn Swallows** on utility wires at Tanyard on July 20, and 145 **Purple Martins** there on July 14. An adult, male **Purple Martin** was seen with nesting material at Cornfield Harbor on June 30 (Craig, Cribb).

Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, Waxwings. A nice count of 10 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** was made at Pt. Lookout on June 2 (Craig, Boxwell). It was a good summer for **Winter Wrens**. Susan Sires found 2 at Dans Rock, Allegany County on June 29, an unusual location for this species in summer. Another was singing in the Catoctins in Frederick County on July 5 (Dave Czaplak), and 2 others were found in Garrett County at Swallow Falls on July 12 (Skipper). Marge Leypoldt found a dead **Cedar Waxwing** fledgling in her yard at St. Michaels on July 8.

Warblers, Summer Tanager. A **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Audley-Riley Road near Gorman on June 24 and another at Lost Land Run, Potomac SF, Garrett County on June 30 (Skipper). A late migrant **Blackpoll Warbler** was at Pt. Lookout on June 2 (Craig, Boxwell), one was at Lake Elkhorn on June 9 (Ecker), and Bystrak heard a Blackpoll at PWRC/North on June 10. Two immature, late migrant **American Redstarts** were checked off at Pt. Lookout on June 4 (Craig). Sam Dyke reported a singing **Swainson's Warbler** along the Pocomoke River, Worcester County on July 6. A late migrant **Northern Waterthrush** was notched at Indian Head, Charles County on June 1 (Boxwell), and another was banded at Jug Bay on July 29 (Bystrak). Craig and Boxwell watched an adult **Louisiana Waterthrush** feeding a youngster at Dameron on June 16. A **Canada Warbler** was listed at Henryton on the late date of June 1 (Stirrat). As he did last summer, Bob Ringler found a singing **Summer Tanager** at Soldiers Delight, Baltimore County, on June 8.

Sparrows. Connie Skipper saw a female **Grasshopper Sparrow** fly off a nest containing 5 eggs on June 12 at a reclaimed strip mine near Gorman. She also found 8 Garrett County locations this summer with **Henslow's Sparrows**, all on reclaimed strip mines. She checked off 6 near McHenry on June 5, 5 at Bittinger on June 10, 4 near Gorman on June 12, between 5 and 8 at Lost Land Run, Potomac SF on June 23, 4 near Gorman on June 24, 5 at Lost Land Run on June 30, 1 at Combination Road on June 30, 10 at Bittinger on July 2, 11 at White Church and Steyer Roads near Gorman on July 3, and 6 at Sharpless Mine Road, near Gorman on July 10. At the Rock Lodge site she banded 10 after-hatch-year males, 6 after-hatch-year females, and 6 hatch-year or juvenile birds. She also recaptured 4 Henslow's Sparrows from previous years. Eva Sunell noted a **White-throated Sparrow** at Allview in Howard County on June 23.

Blue Grosbeak, Cardinals, Dickcissel, Icterines. A Blue Grosbeak was near Gorman on July 10 (Skipper). A Dickcissel was noted in Hollywood from July 6 (John Horton) through July 13 (Rambo). Danny Poet observed an Orchard Oriole with 3 fledged young at Queenstown on July 27. On July 20, Cribb and Schneider found 2 Bobolinks at Scotland. Jan Reese spotted 3 male Bobolinks in breeding plumage at Kings Creek on July 26, and a pair of Northern Cardinals feeding a fledgling Brown-headed Cowbird at St. Michaels on July 8. A female Red-winged Blackbird was on a nest with 3 young and an egg at Leonardtown Wharf on June 29 (Craig). About 45 Boat-tailed Grackles were tallied at Bloodsworth Island on July 5 (Armistead, Spitzer).

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT 1997 MAY COUNT

LEANNE PEMBURN

A wet day by all accounts, still, 490 observers counted 249 species and approximately 199,412 individuals. Garrett County got snow and sleet; other counties had wind and rain, or wind and chilly sun.

Notable species or numbers of the day included: 47 Evening Grosbeaks in Carroll County; a lone Common Redpoll, and a Rusty Blackbird seen in Garrett County; uncommon sparrows including 13 total Vesper Sparrows, 5 Sharp-tailed Sparrows, 34 Seaside Sparrows and 12 Lincoln's Sparrows; several Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warblers (6 Brewster's and 1 Lawrence's); 3 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (not known which form in all cases); an Olive-sided Flycatcher from Montgomery County; 2 Black-necked Stilts in Dorchester County; a Sandhill Crane in Frederick County; a Black Rail in St. Mary's County; the annual Anhinga, this time in Allegany County; a Stilt Sandpiper photographed in Charles County; and some wonderful birders apparently made it to Assateague and counted 13 Piping Plovers.

Notable misses and low numbers include: only 2 Peregrine Falcons counted this year (the nest on the Legg Mason building must have been inaccessible); a total of 4 Barn Owls for the state; no Saw-whet Owls counted; only 16 Common Nighthawks for the state (a little cool and rainy for them that day); no Loggerhead Shrikes counted; no Dickcissels counted; and only one Henslow's Sparrow, in Garrett County.

The highest number of individuals was, as usual, Common Grackle, with 14,375 individuals.

PARTICIPANTS

Henry T. Armistead, Jean Artes, Leonard Ashes, Tim & Mary Baldwin, Marcia Balestri, Bill Balford, John Barber, Peg Barber, Wain Barnes, Andra Bassett, Polly Batchwalder, James Battin, Mel M. Baughman, Tom Beal, Genevieve Beck, Betty Begeron, Virginia Beitzel, James Tyler Bell, Wayne Bell, D. Bennett, Jim Bennett, Lisa Bierer-Garrett, Anne Bishop, Peter

Blank, Rick Blom, David Bolton, Daniel Boone, Jon Boone, Cheri Bovia, Joy S. Bowen, Chuck Bowman, Sharon Bowman, Dessie Bowman, Bob Boxwell, Jim Boxwell, Frank Boyle, Millie Boynton, Vera Brechbiel, Gwen Brewer, Pete Bridge, Alan Bromberg, Judy Bromley, Anne Brooks, Andy Brown, Gwen Burkhardt, Brent Byers, Mary Byers, Lori Byrne, Mike Callahan, Kathy Calvert, Mary Jo Campbell, Geoffrey Cant, Catherine Cant, Bob Cantelli, Elliot Cardano, Steve Cardano, Chris Caris, Vivian Cawood, Les Coble, Wanda Cole, Dan Collins, Nancy Congersky, Tom Congersky, Don Conley, Andrew Cooper, Barry Cooper, Ian Cornelius, Steve Cornelius, Patty Craig, Lisa Crawford, Judy Crews, Marty Cribb, Mike Crone, Ralph Cullison, Deanna Dawson, Lou DeMouy, Deirdre Deroia, Allen Deward, Carolina Dodge, Kevin Dodge, B. Donaldson, Donald Dow, Barbara Dowell, Malcolm Doying, Robert Doyle, Kay Dreisbach, JoAnn Dreyer, George Dubois, Carol Durkin, Mark Eanes, Les Eastman, Jeff Effinger, Grahan Egerton, Gil Ellis, E. Engle, Muffin Evander, John Fales, Frederick Fallon, Jane Fallon, Nate Farreau, Gary Felton, Charlie Filer, Charles Finley, Patti Finley, Fawn Foerster,



*Stilt Sandpiper on Charles County May Count,
May 10, 1997. Photo by George Jett.*

Earl Fogelberg, Charlotte Folk, D. Ford, Steve Ford, Colton, Conor, John & Liz Forrester, Gail Frantz, Harry Frantz, Sam Freiberg, Linda Friedland, Jean Fry, Larry Fry, Cora Fulton, Jeff Futtrell, George Gaffney, Barbara Gaffney, Pablo Garcia, Becky Garling, Shirley Geddes, Carol Ghebelian, D. Glime, I. Glime, J. Glime, Luther Goldman, Nancy Goldman, Greg Gough, Kevin Graff, Linda Graff, LeJay Graffious, Charles Graham, Paul Graham, Josie Gray, Jim Green, Frank Grove, Jim & Trish Gruber, Dot Gustafson, Scott Guzewich, Patricia A. Haacke, William I. Haacke, Betty-Ann Hackett, Sue Hamilton, Peter Hanam, Thomas Harten, Dave & Maureen Harvey, M. Hewitt, Anne Higgins, Jane Highsaw, Jim Highsaw, Rob Hilton, Wilbur Hirschberger, Steve Hitchner, Ann S. Hobbs, Frances & Harold Hoecker, Jutta Holzhaus, Barbara Hopkins, Connie Horrocks, Helen Horrocks, Jeff Horrocks, John Horton, Glory Houck, Kim Hudyma, Sheila Hughes, Carl Hull, Bill Hulslander, Pam & Randy Humberson, Mary Humphreys, Miriam L. Hursey, Eva Illescas, Edith Jack, Otavio Janni, Jan Janssen, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Barbara Johnson, Mark S. Johnson, Donald C. Jones, Vincent C. Jones, Leon Jordan, Cindy Kalfayan, Stephanie Kaltenecker, Sukon Kanchanaraksa, Lois Kauffman, Heather Kauffman, Greg Kearns, Bob Keedy, Mary Keedy, Linda Keller, Julie Kelly, Ray Kiddy, Dennis Kirkwood, Elliot Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Kathy Kiselewich, Lea

Knapp, Brian Knedler, Jane Kostenko, Russell Kovach, Rosemary Krus, Bill Kulp, Bill Kulp, Jr., Kathie Lambert, John Landers, Ray Lane, Kathleen Lathrop, Dorothy Lauber, Bill Leeson, Lenna Leeson, Sheila Leiss, Willie Lent, Dolly Leonnig, Henry Leskinen, Joe Lewandowski, Judy Lilga, Roland Limpert, Doug Lister, Lisa Lister, Marie Litz, Jessica & Shane Livengood, Cynthia Loeper, Chris Loffredo, Suzette Lopez, John Lorenz, J. Lovelace, Ann Lucy, Bob Lukinic, Leonard Lutwack, Lucy MacClintock, Nancy MacClintock, Margaret Markham, Eileen Marsh, John Martel, Woody Martin, Donald Mattson, James McCann, Jean McConnell, Betty McCoy, Ray McCoy, Mike McKinnon, Martha Meek, Donald Mehlman, Mieke Mehlman, Helen Meleney, Michele Melia, Don Meritt, Ann Mersh, Jim Meyers, D. H. Michael, Janet Millenson, Ann Mitchell, Michael Moffat, Barbara Molyneux, Jorie Moran, Dwight Mueller, Jean Muller, Larry Murphy, Lee Murray, Alice Nemitsas, Kathy Neugebauer, Cheryl Newcomb, Paul Nistico, M. Nuttle, Amy O'Connor, Beth Olsen, Jeff Opel, John Pangborn, Doug Parker, Nancy Parker, Geoffrey S. Parker, Floyd Parks, Lanny Parks, Zach Parks, James Paulus, Ed Pembleton, Sil Pembleton, LeAnne & Mark Pemburn, Eric & Patsy Perlman, John Pfieffer, Jeannie Pfieffer, Betty Pitney, Jay Pittenger, Lana Pittenger, Mac Plant, Marie & Stan Plante, Danny Poet, Bill & Fran Pope, Cal Posey, Sarah Potter, Esther Powelson, Vladimir Prassolov, Linda Prentice, Meg Prior, Suzanne Procell, Kathie Prothero, Paul Quinlan, Bill Quynn, Gail Quynn, Peggy Quynn, Dave Radcliffe, Kyle Rambo, Sharon Raun, Mark Rawlings, Tracey Rawlings, Greg Reams, Anne Redfern, Cynthia Renk, Barbara Ricciardi, Glen Richardson, Bob Rineer, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, B. Robinson, R. Robinson, Les Roslund, Roberta Ross, Terry Ross, Frank Ross, Nancy Rowe, Barbara J. Runkles, Mark A. Runkles, Ronald R. Runkles, Jack Saba, John Sauer, Norm Saunders, Jean Sawyers, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia & Paul Schindler, C Schmick, Susan Schneider, M.E. Schwatka, B. Scudder, Christina Seelaus, Janet Shields, Chris Shipe, Cynthia Sibrel, Teresa Simons, Susan Sires, Connie Skipper, Heather Smith, David Smith, Ed Smith, Jean Snyder, Barry Spalding, Kathryn Speicher, Paul R. Spitzer, Linda Spohn, Leslie Starr, Mary Jo Stein, Debbie Stewart, Roger Stone, Carolyn Sturtevant, Tod Sukontarak, Ron Sundergill, Stan Sundergill, Rick Sussman, Hayward Swisher, Allen Swope, Cheryl Swope, M. Tango, P. Tango, Jerry Tarbell, Laura Tarbell, Betsy Taylor, Herb Taylor, Darlene & David Terlizzi, Debbie Terry, Glenn Therres, Elizabeth Thompson, Barbara & Charlie Thorne, John Thrasher, Jean Tierney, D. Todd, I. Todd, M. Todd, Paul Tolson, Joe Turner, Ken Tyson, Spike Updegrove, Darlene Valentine, Pilar Velez, David Walbeck, Beverly Walker, Warren Walker, David Wallace, Frank Warfield, Jen Warriner, Mark Weatherholt, Pete Webb, Margaret Weber, Sally Wechsler, Dave Weesner, Ryan Weesner, Leo Weigant, Nathan Weigl, Hal Weiss, Matilda Weiss, Michael Welch, Bill Wells, Charles Wetherill, I. Wheatley, John Williamson, Ernest J. Willoughby, George Wilmot, Ruth Wilsey, Paul Wilson, Pat Wilson, David Winer, David & Jane Winer, Betty Wolf, Robert Wood, Shirley Wood, Paul Woodward, John Wortman, Howard Youth, Beth Zang, Elizabeth Zucker, John Zyla, and all of Our Anonymous and/or Forgotten Birders.

2617 Guilford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218

KEY TO SYMBOLS ON MAY COUNT SPECIES LIST

* species for which details were requested

** species not on printed list

<i>Species:</i>	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Wood Duck	24	28	9	25	8	32	31	34	30	4	49	42
Gadwall	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
American Wigeon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
American Black Duck	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	3	1
Mallard	135	30	245	162	37	345	62	186	76	18	168	113
Blue-winged Teal	5	0	0	4	0	5	0	1	1	0	0	1
Northern Shoveler	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Pintail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Redhead*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lesser Scaup	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
King Eider**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Eider**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlequin Duck**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oldsquaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Red-breasted Merganser	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Ruddy Duck	10	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Osprey	8	6	3	6	0	28	28	9	6	1	36	75
Bald Eagle	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	1	5	0	9	9
Northern Harrier	0	1	0	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	2	1	1	0	2	2	5	2	0	1	1

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Wood Duck	39	37	19	20	25	36	13	10	2	0	4	521
Gadwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	8	16
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	7
American Black Duck	4	1	3	5	5	2	2	36	4	0	30	104
Mallard	81	140	124	688	76	92	52	60	22	0	108	3020
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	27
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Northern Pintail	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Canvasback	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Redhead*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Lesser Scaup	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
King Eider**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Eider**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlequin Duck**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oldsquaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Merganser	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Red-breasted Merganser	0	1	0	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	26
Ruddy Duck	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Osprey	22	81	135	50	32	22	24	40	16	0	10	638
Bald Eagle	7	32	13	16	9	25	4	25	2	0	1	181
Northern Harrier	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	27

<i>Species:</i>	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	0	4	0	2	3	3	0	0	2	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	1	0	4	1	16	0	35	20	2	20	11
Broad-winged Hawk	5	5	2	0	0	2	2	11	0	0	1	0
Red-tailed Hawk	0	17	7	29	12	25	26	32	15	0	18	9
American Kestrel	2	3	14	15	3	5	4	9	2	1	12	3
Merlin *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peregrine Falcon *	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	0	4	1	11	0	1	1	0	0	0
Ruffed Grouse	6	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wild Turkey	11	17	12	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	3
Northern Bobwhite	0	2	1	1	0	1	6	0	4	0	13	12
Black Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
King Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia Rail	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
American Coot	8	0	1	1	3	1	0	4	4	0	1	4
Sandhill Crane **	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-bellied Plover	4	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Semipalmated Plover	4	2	4	5	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killdeer	39	10	30	39	1	51	18	28	9	0	21	30
American Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-necked Stilt *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Yellowlegs	6	2	1	9	0	3	13	1	3	0	48	9
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	4	3	61	0	6	17	1	2	0	11	9
Solitary Sandpiper	15	12	12	68	1	49	14	70	20	0	30	14

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Cooper's Hawk	0	2	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	11	15	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	151
Broad-winged Hawk	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
Red-tailed Hawk	11	16	12	14	4	20	7	5	5	0	2	286
American Kestrel	1	2	1	5	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	89
Merlin *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peregrine Falcon *	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Wild Turkey	2	0	3	3	0	23	0	2	4	0	0	88
Northern Bobwhite	6	4	8	19	11	14	7	30	7	0	1	147
Black Rail	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Clapper Rail	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	7
King Rail	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	5
Virginia Rail	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	8	4	0	0	38
Sora	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	18
Common Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
American Coot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	28
Sandhill Crane **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Black-bellied Plover	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	67	90
Semipalmated Plover	4	9	0	3	47	39	0	35	35	0	2	197
Piping Plover **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13
Killdeer	8	12	18	28	27	43	29	14	89	0	14	558
American Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	31	33
Black-necked Stilt *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Greater Yellowlegs	9	24	5	9	10	26	3	35	5	0	8	229
Lesser Yellowlegs	16	37	12	25	17	6	2	30	0	0	12	272
Solitary Sandpiper	0	19	11	4	6	2	2	2	3	0	0	354

<i>Species:</i>	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	68	10	19	56	2	62	34	48	35	3	48	23
Upland Sandpiper *	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	0	4	0	0	111	0	2	1	0	12	13
Least Sandpiper	12	7	1	99	0	117	50	0	15	0	0	19
White-rumped Sandpiper *	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	0
Purple Sandpiper **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stilt Sandpiper *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	1	1	1	4	0	2	0	4	1	0	2	0
American Woodcock	3	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	14	8	0	18	0	173	172
Bonaparte's Gull	13	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ring-billed Gull	210	72	1	35	50	1113	152	189	149	25	331	253
Herring Gull	0	1	0	0	0	606	1	1	0	12	28	22
Lesser Black-backed Gull*	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	0	0	97	5	0	0	35	0	23
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	0	398	49	1	0	0	4	0
Royal Tern	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	2
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0
Forster's Tern	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	6	8
Least Tern	0	0	0	0	0	24	6	0	0	0	0	0

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Willet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	16	4	0	116	137
Spotted Sandpiper	31	20	24	25	1	19	0	5	0	0	10	543
Upland Sandpiper *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Whimbrel *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	17	21
Sanderling	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	306	310
Semipalmated Sandpiper	7	1	4	23	5	10	4	6	0	0	0	203
Least Sandpiper	1	78	18	118	96	0	6	70	14	0	7	728
White-rumped Sandpiper *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Purple Sandpiper **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Dunlin	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	875	0	0	135	1072
Stilt Sandpiper *	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	1	0	1	35	0	0	0	0	0	45	84
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	18
American Woodcock	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	23
Wilson's Phalarope *	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Laughing Gull	169	104	663	241	666	616	281	925	39	0	185	4274
Bonaparte's Gull	0	2	50	273	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	392
Ring-billed Gull	40	357	675	2284	730	0	66	55	0	0	270	7057
Herring Gull	17	145	436	35	28	0	3	45	26	0	198	1604
Lesser Black-backed Gull*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Great Black-backed Gull	0	13	21	7	0	0	2	6	6	0	36	251
Caspian Tern	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	463
Royal Tern	0	166	34	2	0	1	2	0	10	0	164	385
Common Tern	2	0	14	6	7	0	0	1	0	0	58	95
Forster's Tern	5	15	73	25	2	3	2	80	5	0	68	298
Least Tern	0	0	8	26	39	3	1	1	0	0	50	158

<i>Species:</i>	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Willow Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Least Flycatcher	3	0	0	5	0	2	2	3	1	1	0	0
Eastern Phoebe	25	12	22	35	1	33	20	50	20	1	46	9
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	14	44	69	17	49	31	34	66	8	22	20
Eastern Kingbird	32	9	66	114	29	133	146	137	30	33	99	94
Loggerhead Shrike *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-eyed Vireo	9	5	8	20	24	46	60	136	30	2	79	45
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	9	2	12	7	24	18	24	16	0	11	6
Solitary Vireo	29	4	8	4	0	9	0	14	0	0	1	2
Warbling Vireo	2	7	27	7	0	9	16	8	4	2	2	1
Philadelphia Vireo *	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	9	43	30	102	19	221	111	327	242	35	325	77
Blue Jay	122	40	159	175	75	143	125	268	109	25	123	80
American Crow	279	121	427	357	163	467	149	509	327	70	444	205
Fish Crow	0	1	18	31	5	10	19	18	19	4	35	7
Common Raven *	0	11	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horned Lark	1	5	1	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	4	0
Purple Martin	4	0	69	48	7	54	53	19	108	3	29	61
Tree Swallow	879	103	260	229	328	244	2203	254	314	15	698	172
N. Rough-winged Swallow	96	47	308	127	11	164	645	59	101	80	49	32
Bank Swallow	202	0	69	60	200	101	2	8	72	100	96	147
Cliff Swallow	342	7	68	9	0	5	0	178	79	2	2	1
Barn Swallow	1967	153	709	767	102	1109	277	464	707	85	235	369
Black-capped Chickadee	131	29	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carolina Chickadee	0	0	74	157	52	180	88	321	159	51	179	84
Tufted Titmouse	64	56	105	151	39	144	95	340	173	50	246	92
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-breasted Nuthatch	40	13	25	32	8	32	16	53	39	2	23	6

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Willow Flycatcher	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
Eastern Phoebe	13	19	6	9	3	14	0	0	4	1	2	345
Great Crested Flycatcher	17	17	37	36	33	52	32	12	28	1	11	651
Eastern Kingbird	13	36	92	52	20	43	8	6	8	1	8	1209
Loggerhead Shrike *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White-eyed Vireo	32	48	63	66	15	27	21	4	19	2	7	768
Yellow-throated Vireo	16	14	4	8	0	5	0	0	4	0	5	186
Solitary Vireo	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	76
Warbling Vireo	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Philadelphia Vireo *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Red-eyed Vireo	185	189	211	153	39	53	34	6	36	1	11	2459
Blue Jay	33	60	128	185	45	68	33	10	10	0	6	2022
American Crow	113	238	385	126	30	132	58	30	43	1	7	4681
Fish Crow	43	17	33	34	22	17	46	4	1	0	4	388
Common Raven *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Horned Lark	0	2	15	33	11	62	11	4	0	0	0	159
Purple Martin	33	271	85	101	23	392	101	35	71	0	37	1604
Tree Swallow	41	187	184	3219	497	200	48	110	15	0	21	10221
N. Rough-winged Swallow	95	66	36	154	1	37	2	2	2	0	0	2114
Bank Swallow	25	40	2	308	17	30	4	12	9	0	0	1504
Cliff Swallow	0	3	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	702
Barn Swallow	168	334	548	658	207	168	81	85	63	2	76	9334
Black-capped Chickadee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	161
Carolina Chickadee	38	69	100	170	34	66	34	6	31	0	23	1916
Tufted Titmouse	70	102	102	116	25	63	31	7	36	1	20	2128
Red-breasted Nuthatch *	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	6	3	9	3	0	3	1	4	0	3	321

Species:	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown Creeper	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Carolina Wren	5	30	31	46	10	47	28	97	95	27	85	45
House Wren	23	10	76	101	27	59	28	95	85	12	30	7
Winter Wren *	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marsh Wren	1	0	0	0	0	14	3	0	0	0	2	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	73	9	3	13	2	11	2	10	2	1	3	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	45	68	41	117	36	165	187	263	140	26	169	90
Eastern Bluebird	15	19	130	102	57	87	74	111	41	6	107	44
Veery	12	1	4	21	7	75	17	56	17	22	28	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush *	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	6	0	3	7	0	9	5	9	7	9	7	3
Hermit Thrush	12	1	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	2	2
Wood Thrush	22	12	58	138	32	126	133	240	81	24	171	52
American Robin	633	253	750	1037	262	515	435	570	189	105	343	248
Gray Catbird	74	49	197	509	205	475	210	574	288	98	189	112
Northern Mockingbird	0	9	103	109	31	93	103	163	42	20	116	60
Brown Thrasher	6	6	27	25	18	12	7	16	11	2	27	13
European Starling	279	132	960	2657	356	1510	883	1049	521	110	641	884
American Pipit	0	0	0	20	0	0	20	0	0	0	3	0
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	30	41	4	58	55	35	124	15	132	34
Blue-winged Warbler	3	9	11	11	5	41	15	61	24	4	6	11
Brewster's Hybrid *	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
Lawrence's Hybrid *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Golden-winged Warbler	8	3	0	2	0	3	0	0	4	0	1	0
Tennessee Warbler	2	0	1	7	0	2	1	2	10	3	0	0
Nashville Warbler	14	7	1	4	0	4	1	3	5	0	4	0

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	21
Brown Creeper	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
Carolina Wren	17	30	36	59	19	29	17	10	16	1	7	787
House Wren	6	3	2	18	1	0	1	5	9	0	0	598
Winter Wren *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Marsh Wren	9	5	3	25	3	0	1	15	4	0	0	85
Golden-crowned Kinglet	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	61	69	38	30	21	27	9	3	43	1	10	1659
Eastern Bluebird	52	71	132	31	28	80	43	12	9	0	6	1257
Veery	20	0	10	19	1	2	11	0	0	0	0	324
Gray-cheeked Thrush *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Swainson's Thrush	0	2	4	4	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	78
Hermit Thrush	0	8	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	40
Wood Thrush	38	46	89	168	64	44	26	3	31	0	5	1603
American Robin	100	132	365	1082	473	422	111	45	99	0	259	8428
Gray Catbird	25	36	83	185	54	47	26	8	14	1	260	3719
Northern Mockingbird	28	63	103	136	53	82	26	5	24	0	10	1379
Brown Thrasher	15	17	42	15	7	31	3	0	1	0	6	307
European Starling	144	331	920	386	364	727	69	50	154	0	319	13446
American Pipit	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	57
Cedar Waxwing	34	26	52	34	0	30	36	8	0	0	0	748
Blue-winged Warbler	2	6	4	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	220
Brewster's Hybrid *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Lawrence's Hybrid *	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Golden-winged Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Tennessee Warbler	2	1	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	38
Nashville Warbler	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	45

<i>Species:</i>	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Northern Parula	14	8	10	41	11	156	80	169	138	9	131	73
Yellow Warbler	60	40	60	90	39	184	125	162	48	10	50	34
Chestnut-sided Warbler	25	14	16	26	14	101	17	103	63	32	45	15
Magnolia Warbler	20	4	2	15	6	89	27	111	33	9	29	18
Cape May Warbler	6	0	0	2	3	3	1	0	1	2	5	0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	26	7	26	96	28	357	93	266	85	25	86	37
Yellow-rumped Warbler	530	76	255	430	146	575	642	411	624	260	309	161
Black-thr. Green Warbler	75	30	11	38	8	93	27	71	47	14	34	18
Blackburnian Warbler	29	7	13	11	7	34	6	26	14	7	11	3
Yellow-throated Warbler	8	2	3	4	1	10	4	6	5	1	5	1
Pine Warbler	1	8	4	1	1	6	3	6	3	0	9	9
Prairie Warbler	0	8	4	7	10	19	30	33	26	2	41	26
Palm Warbler	25	0	5	7	0	5	0	2	1	0	0	4
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	0	2	5	0	7	0	1	0	0	3	1
Blackpoll Warbler	0	4	2	5	1	4	5	5	5	10	13	4
Cerulean Warbler	13	5	3	11	0	7	3	28	9	1	4	0
Black-and-white Warbler	28	5	11	28	16	173	80	136	31	10	43	34
American Redstart	63	39	28	112	55	238	71	286	111	33	91	96
Prothonotary Warbler	0	2	3	6	1	3	6	0	6	0	3	5
Worm-eating Warbler	0	8	2	24	1	33	25	21	5	2	2	5
Ovenbird	45	13	17	67	17	123	52	147	52	34	163	81
Northern Waterthrush	8	1	2	4	2	21	4	13	7	0	5	9
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	4	7	26	2	21	21	27	23	0	8	9
Kentucky Warbler	2	1	3	8	2	17	26	35	19	0	23	10
Common Yellowthroat	98	44	41	125	62	336	201	345	141	31	212	149
Hooded Warbler	12	4	0	4	1	21	4	20	1	5	49	19
Wilson's Warbler	3	0	0	1	0	5	1	7	2	1	1	2
Canada Warbler	5	1	4	3	2	35	9	21	7	0	6	1

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Northern Parula	91	84	67	59	17	16	25	0	9	1	5	1,214
Yellow Warbler	14	18	18	100	14	9	9	3	1	0	5	1,093
Chestnut-sided Warbler	9	7	22	29	0	0	20	1	0	0	0	559
Magnolia Warbler	19	0	17	36	4	1	8	0	1	0	0	449
Cape May Warbler	0	0	3	7	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	35
Black-throated Blue Warbler	47	12	31	24	26	5	17	1	2	0	0	1,297
Yellow-rumped Warbler	53	91	105	409	83	23	82	25	22	0	2	5,314
Black-thr. Green Warbler	17	9	37	41	1	4	17	0	1	0	0	593
Blackburnian Warbler	4	2	4	11	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	194
Yellow-throated Warbler	18	1	2	12	2	0	1	0	1	0	5	92
Pine Warbler	17	22	41	16	5	14	11	12	31	0	7	227
Prairie Warbler	11	20	30	7	3	18	5	2	45	0	2	349
Palm Warbler	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Blackpoll Warbler	12	11	15	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	103
Cerulean Warbler	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	89
Black-and-white Warbler	32	11	67	47	14	10	18	2	19	0	2	817
American Redstart	56	27	39	39	12	10	21	3	13	0	5	1,448
Prothonotary Warbler	4	11	1	8	2	12	1	4	10	2	16	106
Worm-eating Warbler	7	1	6	3	0	0	8	2	16	0	10	181
Ovenbird	73	85	131	73	18	32	27	6	50	1	15	1,322
Northern Waterthrush	1	3	1	5	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	90
Louisiana Waterthrush	9	10	10	2	2	0	6	0	2	0	5	197
Kentucky Warbler	19	15	24	24	3	8	4	0	1	0	3	247
Common Yellowthroat	88	68	163	242	68	63	52	35	31	1	10	2,606
Hooded Warbler	29	38	21	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	236
Wilson's Warbler	10	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	35
Canada Warbler	0	0	3	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	107

<i>Species:</i>	Gar	Alle	Wash	Fred	Carr	Balt	Harf	How	Mont	DC	PG	AA
Boat-tailed Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Grackle	236	88	1,182	1,828	224	1,605	614	766	296	55	584	368
Brown-headed Cowbird	75	38	82	124	55	148	97	129	116	45	128	110
Orchard Oriole	2	3	25	18	6	27	67	52	21	8	28	13
Northern Oriole	33	43	159	118	11	144	91	133	78	5	39	18
Purple Finch	6	1	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Finch	40	9	185	156	62	117	90	165	85	30	140	78
Common Redpoll **	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Goldfinch	151	112	213	394	105	385	165	389	240	60	308	103
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Sparrow	76	90	255	566	1	176	89	263	122	60	120	98
Total Species:	145	135	143	149	116	169	150	147	145	104	162	160
Total Individuals:	9,687	3,509	10,269	17,178	4,332	19,475	12,356	17,062	10,126	2,794	12,151	7,507
Observers	19	9	20	26	7	71	23	65	40	1	73	29
Parties	12	5	11	9	4	30	9	32	23	1	32	13
Party-hours on foot	57	20	32.5	39	28	142.3	49	194.5	140	10.5	153	76
Party-hours by car	44	15	56.5	70	7	13.25	34.5	20.3	10	2.5	19	17.5
Party-miles on foot	43.55	20	29	37.5	13	81.3	29.25	147.8	88.5	8	107	50.5
Party-miles by car	496.6	108	568	644	115	105	277	316.9	130	50	194	92.5

<i>Species:</i>	Calv	Chas	StM	Kent	QAn	Caro	Talb	Dor	Wic	Som	Wor	TOTAL
Boat-tailed Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	222	230
Common Grackle	308	317	1,147	1,294	844	934	358	450	265	0	648	14,411
Brown-headed Cowbird	44	79	127	208	56	104	56	80	45	0	18	1,964
Orchard Oriole	5	19	16	67	17	83	29	40	20	0	2	568
Northern Oriole	3	12	10	53	24	31	24	6	2	0	1	1,035
Purple Finch	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	26
House Finch	20	57	97	145	36	109	49	1	9	0	12	1,692
Common Redpoll **	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Goldfinch	63	111	190	319	47	169	68	25	28	0	6	3,651
Evening Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
House Sparrow	35	34	150	128	63	191	25	15	46	0	165	2,768
Total Species:	130	141	158	169	128	125	131	144	107	22	128	250
Total Individuals:	4,404	6,887	11,759	19,616	6,750	8,108	3,211	4,680	2,299	32	5,870	200,049
Observers	7	14	22	11	9	21	6	5	4	2	6	484
Parties	4	8	14	7	8	5	5	1	2	1	4	237
Party-hours on foot	46	35	51.5	16	30.5	30.5	9.25	8	11	0.25	23	1,196.75
Party-hours by car	11	36	43	37.5	27	25.5	9.75	16	8	0.5	7.5	531.3
Party-miles on foot	28	28.5	51.8	12	10	14.5	10.5	3	1.5	0.25	9.5	822.95
Party-miles by car	105	386.5	490.4	282	282	302	110	180	100	5	133	5,469.90

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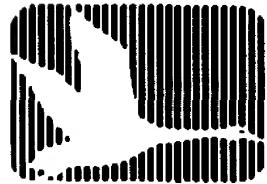
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*Cover: The Henslow's Sparrow is a secretive grassland bird found in western Maryland.
(Illustration by Gary Yoder)*



MONITORING AND BANDING THE HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN GARRETT COUNTY, MARYLAND

CONNIE S. SKIPPER

ABSTRACT

The Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) is a Maryland threatened species. It has gradually disappeared from Maryland except for the westernmost counties, where it uses the newly formed habitat of reclaimed strip mines. In 1989 I discovered a small colony of these sparrows. I began to monitor that site, two other colonies, and to actively search for new colonies. From these observations I hypothesized that Henslow's Sparrows return to previous nesting sites, or nearby suitable sites, until vegetation becomes unfit for nesting purposes. To test this hypothesis I began a study with two objectives: (1) field visits to monitor known breeding populations and search for new colonies, and (2) a banding study to determine whether Henslow's Sparrows return to previous nesting sites or natal areas. I have discovered ten new colonies and monitored two previously occupied sites. Of these twelve sites, three colonies have disappeared due to succession and one was lost to pasturing of cattle. As of August 1998, eight sites were still occupied by breeding Henslow's Sparrows.

I banded 87 Henslow's Sparrows from 1994 through 1997. Thirty-seven of these were adult males. None of the juvenile birds banded were subsequently captured. Of the seven breeding males banded in 1995, one adult male was recaptured in 1996. Four adult males banded in prior years were recaptured in 1997. This was the first documentation of breeding Henslow's Sparrows returning to their previous nesting site (Skipper 1998).

INTRODUCTION

Many grassland birds have experienced significant declines from 1966 through 1991 over most of the United States according to the Breeding Bird Survey (Peterjohn and Sauer 1993). One of these grassland species, the Henslow's Sparrow (see front cover), shows a -8.8 % per year long-term trend ($P<0.01$) from 1966–1995 (Peterjohn et al. 1996). It is now a Maryland threatened species. Robbins and Boone (1984) stated that habitat loss is a major contributing factor to the decline in Henslow's Sparrows in Maryland. Hands, et al. (1989) list many research needs concerning this species. It is conceivable that grassland preservation and management benefiting Henslow's Sparrows will be instituted in Maryland in the future. Basic information on habitat requirements and reproductive ecology must be discovered before wise management decisions can be made.

Species and Habitat Description

Population Characteristics

Henslow's Sparrows are perplexing birds. They are found in loose colonies in scattered concentrations, while nearby apparently identical habitat remains unoccupied (Hyde 1939). They are known for their sporadic appearances, present some years but not others, on the same site. This is seen in Wiens' 1969 study and on two of the Garrett County sites. However, Henslow's Sparrow colonies occur on some sites year after year.

Nesting Habitat

Henslow's Sparrows have fairly rigid nesting habitat requirements. Standing dead residual vegetation (Zimmerman 1988), litter depth, and density of the vegetation (Robins 1967, Wiens 1969) are important components of the Henslow's Sparrow habitat. Herkert (1994) found that Henslow's Sparrows preferred tall, dense vegetation. They also avoid woody growth. Zimmerman (1988) found less woody vegetation within Henslow's Sparrow territories than outside their territories. Wiens (1969) found that fields with extensive brush or shrubby vegetation were not occupied by Henslow's Sparrows. Nests are usually placed on the litter about 2.5–7.5 cm above ground at the base of a grass clump (Hyde 1939, Robins 1967).

Field Size

In addition to specific vegetation requirements, grassland size appears crucial to Henslow's Sparrow habitat selection. Herkert's (1994) analysis of abundance and distribution patterns of Henslow's Sparrows in Illinois showed that habitat size was a significant factor to these nesting sparrows. He rarely found them on grassland fragments less than 100 ha. Likewise, these sparrows require about 28 ha in New York (Smith 1991), and in Kansas at least 30 ha (Zimmerman 1988). Individual territories range from 0.4 to 0.9 ha (Terres 1987). Henslow's Sparrows appear to choose the largest grasslands available in an area, yet use only a small portion of the grassland for nesting purposes.

Associated Species

Other grassland birds commonly associated with the Henslow's Sparrow in Garrett County include the Grasshopper Sparrow (*A. savannarum*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), and occasionally the Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). These birds will also benefit from grassland preservation and management.

Site Fidelity

A large portion of my work with the Henslow's Sparrows has been determining whether they return to previous nesting sites. I found two references to banding of Henslow's Sparrows in the literature. Robins (1967) marked 44 birds in 1966 in Michigan. None of these birds were among the breeding birds observed on his study site or in the immediate area in 1967. Hands et al. (1989) stated that none of the 39 Henslow's Sparrows banded by Zimmerman in Kansas returned to the study site the following year. Zimmerman, in personal communication with

them, suggested that Henslow's Sparrows may not be site faithful because of the unpredictable nature of their preferred habitat (Hands et al. 1989).

I became fascinated with the Henslow's Sparrow on a May Count in 1989. I reviewed the "Report of Statewide Bird Count" and "Breeding Season" articles in *Maryland Birdlife* from June 1985 through the current issue. This investigation of the Henslow's Sparrow population status in Maryland revealed that this species has disappeared from all Maryland counties except for the westernmost portion of the state. The Maryland and D.C. breeding bird atlas found them in Garrett and Allegany Counties and in three blocks on the coastal plain. Those on the coastal plain were all on the lower Eastern shore, with none of the sites occupied since 1989 (Robbins and Blom 1996). Since 1990 all breeding season reports have been from Garrett County (GC), with the exception of three reports from adjacent Allegany County. All of these sightings in GC since 1989 have been on reclaimed strip mines, with the exception of an old field at Finzel Swamp near Frostburg.

Henslow's Sparrow Habitat on Garrett County's Reclaimed Strip Mines

One of the best places in GC to find the type of habitat preferred by Henslow's Sparrows is on reclaimed strip mines (RSM). Since the late 1960s, legislation required all strip mines in Maryland to be reclaimed. Landowners have the choice of replanting with grasses and legumes, or a combination of trees and grasses. For the first 5–6 years, vegetation is too sparse to support Henslow's Sparrows. As succession improves conditions, Henslow's Sparrows may move on site. If the site was reclaimed with trees and grasses, it may accommodate the sparrows only a few years until shrubs and trees dominate, and the sparrows abandon the site. Reclamation with only grass and legumes can support Henslow's Sparrows for many years. Coal was mined in GC from four coal basins, the Potomac River Basin, Georges Creek Basin, Casselman River Basin, and the Youghiogheny River Basin. These RSMs were often located quite near to one another, creating potential habitat for the Henslow's Sparrow which was easily accessible to expanding colonies.

I began to annually monitor breeding populations in Garrett County in 1990. In 1992 I began searching for new colonies. I found that in western Maryland there are very few sites with suitable nesting habitat; it seemed unlikely that a new colony of Henslow's Sparrows was finding these few suitable areas each year. The Grasshopper Sparrow is a close relative of the Henslow's Sparrow. Nearly half of the male Grasshopper Sparrows banded in Florida were observed on territories within 100 m of their capture locations in succeeding years (Delaney and Progulske 1992). It seemed reasonable that Henslow's Sparrows do the same. My field observations led me to hypothesize that Henslow's Sparrows do return to previous nesting sites, or nearby suitable sites, until vegetation becomes unfit for nesting purposes. I started the banding study in 1994 to obtain this information. Thereafter, my study of Henslow's Sparrows in Garrett County had two objectives: (1) Field visits to monitor known breeding populations and search for new colonies, and (2) a banding study to determine whether Henslow's Sparrows return to previous nesting sites or natal areas.

METHODS

Survey Method

Field surveys simply consisted of at least annual visits to each site known to support Henslow's Sparrows in the past. Often I visited the site twice per season. I walked the entire

field in a pattern such that I could hear any singing male. I recorded the number heard making certain no male was counted more than once. The past two years I sketched the field with the location of each male in relation to other males and habitat landmarks. I was chiefly concerned with presence or absence of the birds. I searched for new colonies on RSMs adjacent to known Henslow's Sparrow colonies. Most site visits were done before 10:00 a.m. when the birds were most likely to be singing. All site visits were done between May 15 and August 31, the safe dates given for Maryland breeding birds (Robbins and Blom 1996).

Banding Method and Study Site

Nylon mist nets were set up during the breeding season on suspected male territories. Any captured Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow or Savannah Sparrow was marked with a numbered, aluminum butt-end USFWS band. I recorded information on each bird and released it. To calculate the breeding male population figure for the banding site, I roughly mapped the territory of each singing male in relation to habitat landmarks and other males.



Figure 1. The study site is a 79 hectare reclaimed strip mine supporting a large colony of Henslow's Sparrows. (Photograph by Connie S. Skipper)

The banding site (Figure 1) is a 79 hectare reclaimed strip mine near Rock Lodge Road, McHenry, MD. This site has been mined, and reclaimed in stages over a 12-year period from 1976 to 1987. A 1.6 km long, narrow pond is on the north side of the reclamation, which itself is 3.2 km long. Much of the site is lush vegetation completely undisturbed except by wildlife. Sections of the reclamation are planted in grasses and legumes, while other sections are planted in grasses and small trees. For a detailed description of the banding methodology and vegetation, see Skipper (1998).

RESULTS

Survey Results

Table I is a summary of dates and locations of Garrett County Henslow's Sparrow reports since 1985. For the sake of brevity, I've included only the report per breeding season with the highest number of birds.

*Table I. Summary of Breeding Henslow's Sparrow Reports since 1985
in Garrett County, Maryland.*

POTOMAC RIVER BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Chestnut Grove Road	4	6/0 3/89	(Ringler 1989)
	2	5/12/90	(J. McKearnan, pers. comm.)
	1	7/13/91	(Southworth and Southworth 1991)*
	0	6/ 3/92	Skipper
Combination Road	?	6/ /89	(K. Dodge, pers. comm.)
	3	6/13/91	Skipper
	4	6/30/92	Skipper
	2	5/17/93	Skipper
	2	6/15/94	Skipper
	3	5/23/95	Skipper
	3	5/30/96	Skipper
	1	5/22/97	Skipper
	3	5/16/98	Skipper
Lost Land Run, Site 1	4	7/16/92	Skipper
	0	5/26/93	Skipper
	0	6/15/94	Skipper
	0	5/23/95	Skipper
	0	5/30/96	Skipper
	0	6/23/97	Skipper
Lost Land Run, Site 2	4	7/16/92	Skipper
	1	5/26/93	Skipper
	0	6/15/94	Skipper
	0	5/23/95	Skipper
	0	5/30/96	Skipper
	5-8	6/23/97	Skipper
	5	7/27/98	Skipper
Lost Land Run, Site 3	0	6/15/94	Skipper
	6	6/05/95	Skipper
	1	5/30/96	Skipper
	5	6/30/97	Skipper
	4	7/27/98	Skipper

Gortner	2-3	7/03/90	(Ringler 1990)
White Church-Steyer Road	11	7/03/97	Skipper
	16	6/23/98	Skipper
Audley Riley Road	4	6/12/97	Skipper
	4	6/26/98	Skipper
Sharpless Mine Road	6	7/10/97	Skipper
	9	6/26/98	Skipper

GEORGES CREEK BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Finzel	6	5/23/92	(Southworth and Southworth 1992)
	1	6/13/93	(Southworth and Southworth 1995)
Carey Run	1	6/12/90	(Ringler 1990)

CASSELMAN RIVER BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Negro Mountain	1	7/12/87	(Ringler 1987)
Accident-Bittinger Road	8	7/14/91	(Southworth and Southworth 1991)*
	6	6/01/92	(Southworth and Southworth 1992)*
	2	7/29/93	Skipper
	0	6/30/94	Skipper
	2	5/22/95	Skipper
	0	5/31/96	Skipper
	0	5/21/97	Skipper
Glades	1	6/10/95	(Southworth and Southworth 1996)**
Rock Lodge Rd. & Peat bog	1	7/17/94	(Southworth and Southworth 1995)**
Rock Lodge Road, Site 1	15	Summer 94	Skipper
	15	Summer 95	Skipper
	21	Summer 96	Skipper
	19	Summer 97	Skipper
	6-7	7/29/98	Skipper
Rock Lodge Road, Site 2	6	7/12/94	Skipper
	1	7/17/95	Skipper
	3	5/31/96	Skipper
	0	6/27/97	Skipper
	0	7/10/98	Skipper

Frank Brenneman Road	4	6/11/96	Skipper
	10	7/02/97	Skipper
	10	7/28/98	Skipper

YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER BASIN

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Friendsville	?	1985-1991+	(R. Farrar, pers. comm.)

* *A conversation with M. O'Brien on 6/20/95 pinpointed his sightings to the above named sites. His 1991 and 1992 sightings combined the Accident-Bittinger Road site and a site approximately 1 mile distant.*

** *These sites may be one of the sites listed above, but differently described.*

I first discovered a Henslow's Sparrow on a reclaimed strip mine (RSM) on Chestnut Grove Road on May 13, 1989. Two Henslow's Sparrows were heard at that site on May 12, 1990. M. O'Brien (pers. comm.) heard one here on July 13, 1991, but none have been heard there since that time.

Kevin Dodge also heard a Henslow's Sparrow on Combination Road during the summer of 1989. This location is about 10½ miles from the Chestnut Grove Road site. Henslow's Sparrows have been present in small numbers at Combination Road each year since 1989.

On July 16, 1992, I found two colonies on RSMs near Lost Land Run, each with four singing males. These colonies are located within 1½ miles of the Combination Road site. On May 26, 1993, this area was again checked. One bird was heard on the lower site (Lost Land Run, site 2). The upper site (Lost Land Run, site 1) had no birds. The lower site had no birds since 1993, until they reappeared again in 1997 and 1998. In 1994 I hiked across the valley to an adjacent RSM (Lost Land Run, site 3) and found no Henslow's Sparrows. In 1995 I discovered six singing males there. One was heard there in 1996, five in 1997, and four in 1998. All of the above sites are located in the Potomac River Basin.

A very cooperative coal company owner showed me three new sites in the Potomac River Basin in 1997. I gave him three criteria for the RSMs I wanted to visit: (1) an undisturbed site, meaning no grazing or annual mowing, (2) reclaimed at least five years ago, and (3) at least 12 ha (30 acres) in size. Each of these sites yielded Henslow's Sparrows. A RSM on Audley Riley Road had four singing males in 1997 and four in 1998. The site on White Church-Steyer Road had at least 11 singing males in 1997 and 16 in 1998. The site on the Sharpless Mine Road had six singing males in 1997 and 9 in 1998.

The Casselman River Basin has provided habitat for a number of colonies. On June 1, 1993, I heard two Henslow's Sparrows along the Accident-Bittinger Road. Apparently, birds were heard here in 1991 and 1992 by M. O'Brien (pers. comm.). None were found here in 1994. The birds returned in 1995, but were again absent the following years.

Within one and a half miles of the Accident-Bittinger Road site, near the Rock Lodge Road, is the previously described study site (Rock Lodge Road, site 1). I visited this site on June 30, 1994. Nine singing males were heard that day. I revisited the site many times over

succeeding weeks and identified territories of 15 singing males. Territories of 15 singing males were identified on this site in 1995, 21 territories identified in 1996, and 19 territories identified in 1997. Six to seven singing males were heard on this site on July 29, 1998.

On July 12, 1994, on a RSM approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Rock Lodge Road, site 1, I located another colony with six singing males (Rock Lodge Road, site 2). One was heard here in 1995 and three were present in 1996. None were found here in 1997 or 1998.

In 1996 approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the previous site, on the Frank Brenneman Road, I located yet another RSM with four singing males. I found ten singing males at this site in both 1997 and 1998.

I've searched many hectares of grazed pastures and annually mown hay fields. Not once have I found any Henslow's Sparrows in these habitats, even though all of the associated species, with the exception of Horned Larks, can be found in hay fields mown annually.

Banding Results

I banded a total of 87 Henslow's Sparrows from 1994 through 1997. In 1994, I banded 16 Henslow's Sparrows between July 14 and August 3 [14 days, 353 net-hours (NH)]. In 1995, I banded 18 Henslow's Sparrows between June 14 and July 21 (13 days, 143 NH). In 1996, I banded 31 Henslow's Sparrows between July 10 and August 9 (15 days, 278 NH). In 1997 I banded 22 Henslow's Sparrows between July 11 and August 6 (15 days, 376 NH). See Table II for a summary of these bandings grouped by age and sex. Though my target species was the Henslow's Sparrow, I also banded 37 Grasshopper Sparrows and 29 Savannah Sparrows that were incidentally captured.

Table II. Age and sex of Henslow's Sparrows banded from 1994 through 1997.

YEAR	Adult Male	Adult Female	Adult Unknown	Juvenile Unknown	TOTAL
1994	6	1	1	8	16
1995	7	3	0	8	18
1996	14	3	0	14	31
1997	10	6	0	6	22

Five adult Henslow's Sparrows returned to their previous nesting sites. One adult male Henslow's Sparrow (#1710-81329) was recaptured on July 30, 1996, that had been banded on July 17, 1995 as an adult. He was recaptured on territory approximately 165 m from the previous year's capture site. On July 12, 1997, an adult male (#1710-81342) previously banded on July 18, 1996 was captured approximately 56 m from the previous year's capture site. On July 16, 1997, an adult male (#1710-81346) was captured approximately 61 m from the previous year's capture site. On July 22, 1997, an adult male (#1710-81347) was captured approximately 102 m from the previous year's capture site. On August 6, 1997 an adult male (#1710-81326) was captured approximately 86 m from the 1995 banding site. No bird banded as a juvenile returned to its natal site.

A number of Grasshopper Sparrows showed breeding site fidelity. An adult male Grasshopper Sparrow was captured on June 1, 1995, that had been banded on July 26, 1994 as an adult bird. A different male Grasshopper Sparrow was captured on July 17, 1996, that had been

banded on June 1, 1995, as an adult bird. In addition, on June 20, 1996, I spotted three Grasshopper Sparrows with bands. No banded Savannah Sparrows were recaptured in subsequent years.

DISCUSSION

Vegetation changes appeared to be the reason Henslow's Sparrows deserted a site in nearly all cases. As previously described, they need undisturbed grasslands, prefer tall dense vegetation with an accumulation of litter, and avoid areas with extensive woody growth. Though I didn't do vegetation measurements, there were usually obvious visible changes. The Chestnut Grove site became overgrown with black locusts. At the Lost Land Run, site 1, small pines had been planted on the area the spring of 1993 and no birds were found thereafter. At the Lost Land Run, site 2, black locusts had overgrown much of the site, though areas of grassland remained. Surprisingly, Henslow's Sparrows once again appeared on this site in 1997 and again in 1998. The Accident-Bittinger Road site had no Henslow's Sparrows present in 1994. No obvious vegetational changes had occurred. They returned in 1995, but in 1996 no Henslow's Sparrows were found. This was most certainly due to the presence of a large herd of grazing cattle which had clipped the grass quite short. The Rock Lodge Road, site 2, vegetation has become quite poor and I was not surprised to find no Henslow's Sparrows there in 1997 or 1998. I've found these birds very positively associated with birdfoot-trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*). On the Rock Lodge Road, site 2, this legume is largely being replaced with goldenrod. It seems that Henslow's Sparrows consistently occupy large sites with their preferred vegetation. Smaller sites or those with marginal vegetation are where we see the inconsistent returns from year to year.

Some adult Henslow's Sparrows exhibit breeding site fidelity. The return of a previously banded adult male in 1996 was the first documentation that this is true. This was further supported by the four birds recovered in 1997 that had been banded in 1995 and 1996. Considering the small number (6) of male Grasshopper Sparrows banded in 1994 and 1995 and the number of recoveries (2) and banded singing male sightings (3) in 1996, it seems that a good percentage of these birds are exhibiting breeding site fidelity. Delaney and Progulske (1992) observed 45% of the male Grasshopper Sparrows banded in prior years on territory in succeeding years. The closely related Henslow's Sparrow, on the other hand, appears to have a lower percentage of birds returning to their breeding grounds.

Capturing these wily birds required much trial and error, hard work, and persistence. I captured 6 out of 15 adult males the first year and 7 out of 15 the second year. No previously banded bird was recovered. It was inconclusive whether the sparrows exhibited site fidelity since I'd captured less than half the population of singing males, and some mortality had surely occurred over the intervening year. I refined my capture techniques in 1996 and was able to capture two-thirds of the male population, 14 out of 21. Of these, one was a previously banded bird. I captured nearly three-fourths, 14 out of 19, of the male population in 1997. Four of these were previously banded birds. This means that 21% of the population were returning birds, assuming none of the uncaptured birds were banded (which is unknown).

Although the percentages of adult birds exhibiting site fidelity are not overwhelming, I consider it to be a significant one. So much yet needs to be known about this tiny, secretive bird. In this region, what is the minimum field size Henslow's Sparrows will populate? Do juveniles return to their natal site? Are a low percentage of adults returning to their breeding grounds on a consistent basis? What vegetation factors could be reliable indicators of whether

the Henslow's Sparrow will use a site or not? Answers to these questions are pertinent to effective and responsible land acquisition and management for this species' benefit.

Management should include either burning or mowing portions of the grassland on a rotational schedule according to Zimmerman (1988) and Herkert (1994). This would periodically retard woody growth, as well as leave sufficient nesting habitat with standing dead vegetation and accumulated litter. Henslow's Sparrows are precluded from recently burned areas, but burning stimulates aboveground productivity of grasses and removes woody growth, which in turn results in better habitat in successive years (Zimmerman 1988, Herkert 1994).

Currently GC supports a good population of Henslow's Sparrows. A minimum of 61 singing males were found in 1997 and 57 in 1998. However, as the RSMs go through the natural process of succession, much of their habitat will disappear. Furthermore, surface mining is nearly a thing of the past in GC according to Mr. Fred Bagley (pers. comm.) from the Maryland Bureau of Mines. Therefore, no new habitat areas will become available. We will see fewer, more widely dispersed, sites hospitable to breeding Henslow's Sparrows.

The Henslow's Sparrow is only one of many grassland birds showing a decline in numbers. I believe steps should be taken to preserve some of our grassland ecosystems and manage the grasslands to support the Henslow's Sparrow population. Doing so will also benefit all associated species and, therefore, maintain the diversity of Maryland's avifauna.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am thankful for the support of my husband, Roger, in this endeavor. I am grateful to Fran Pope who allowed the use of her nets the first two seasons and taught me so much about banding. The advice and encouragement given by Kevin Dodge and Dr. Gwen Brewer are also appreciated.

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THE SEASON

FALL MIGRATION AUGUST 1–NOVEMBER 30, 1997

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

There were no significant cold fronts in September and October, and Neotropical migrants seemed few and far between. November was a little chilly and rainy.

Observers: George Armistead, Henry & Mary Armistead, Maud Banks, Mary Jo Betts, Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Bob Boxwell, Ed Boyd, Carol & Don Broderick, Christy Carter, Jane Coskren, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Sam Dyke, Darius & Paula Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Gary Felton, Inez Glime, Kevin Graff, Gary Griffith, Jim Green, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Wilbur Hershberger, Marshall Iliff, Kye Jenkins, Patsy Kennan, Dotty Mumford, Mariana Nuttle, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Norm & Fran Saunders, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Kurt Schwarz, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Rick Sussman, Chris Swarth, Debbie Terry, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, David Weesner, Joy Wheeler, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Hart-Miller reports were provided by Gene Scarpulla. Banding efforts at Cherry Creek were led by Connie Skipper.

Abbreviations: DC — District of Columbia, NWR — National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS — Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's), PWRC — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's), PWRC/N — Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Anne Arundel), SP — State Park, UMCF — University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard), WMA — Wildlife Management Area, WS — Wildlife Sanctuary.

Locations: Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary (Frederick), Alpha Ridge Park (Howard), Back River (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Blair's Valley (Washington), Broadford Lake (Garrett), Browns Bridge (Howard), Brown's Station Landfill (Prince George's), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Clark's Lane (Caroline), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Greenbrier SP (Washington), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Horsehead Wetlands Center (Queen Anne's), Hugg-Thomas WMA (Howard), Irish Grove (Somerset), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Kings Creek Preserve (Talbot), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Mason-Dixon Farm (Frederick), Merkle WMA (Prince George's), Mountain Lake

(Garrett), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Pleasant Valley (Garrett), Remington Farms (Kent), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Terrapin Point Park (Queen Anne's), Town Hill (Allegany), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Turkey Point (Cecil), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise), Wilde Lake (Howard).

Loons, Grebes. A possible **Pacific Loon** strayed into Maryland waters on the Susquehanna River on Nov. 7, and was seen on occasion through Nov. 23 (Blom+). If accepted, this would be Maryland's first record. The first **Red-throated Loon** was spotted at Choptank on October 29 (Iliff), and 3 were inland at Piney Run Park on November 8 (Ringler), the same day that about 110 were found at Conowingo Lake (Blom, N. & F. Saunders). Connie Skipper found an immature **Common Loon** at Deep Creek Lake on Aug. 5-6. The high was 250 at the mouth of Harris Creek in Talbot County on Nov. 6 (Mark Holland). On Nov. 9th there were 52 at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County (Craig, Bishop), and 56 at Broadford Lake and 66 at Deep Creek Lake (Iliff, Stasz). **Pied-billed Grebes** most likely bred at some ponds in Brandywine with Jim Stasz finding 2 adults and 9 juveniles there on Aug. 29. He noted 18 there on Sept. 23. **Horned Grebes** included one at Loch Raven on Aug. 24 (Simon, Jenkins), 1 at Little Seneca Lake and 3 at Seneca on Oct. 6 (N. & F. Saunders), and a high of 35 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz). An **Eared Grebe** was located this season at Hurlock on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz), and another was reported at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 5 (Blom), and on Nov. 15 (Griffith).

Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants. An Aug. 17 pelagic trip out of Ocean City yielded 13 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 2 **Greater Shearwaters**, 29 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, and 305 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. This pelagic trip, led by Brian Patteson, also located a couple of Maryland firsts, a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** and a **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**. Marty Cribb spotted a Wilson's Storm-Petrel in the Chesapeake Bay in Somerset County on Aug. 2. A sub-adult **Northern Gannet** was checked off at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 23 (Craig, Iliff, Stasz), and **Brown Pelicans** included 23 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 19 with the last 4 there on Nov. 23 (Craig). Iliff and Stasz found an immature Brown Pelican at Nanticoke Harbor on Oct. 26 for the first Wicomico County record. Sightings of **Double-crested Cormorants** remain numerous and wide-spread, including 178 at PRNAS on Sept. 10 (Rambo), 150 at Conowingo Dam on Sept. 29 (Iliff), 175 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12 (Reese), 150 over Town Hill on Oct. 1 and 190 there on Oct. 11 (Paulus, Czaplak), 18 at Big Pool on Nov. 7 (Iliff, Stasz), and 60 at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iliff). **Great Cormorants** were present this fall with 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 11th, 1 to 3 at Pt. Lookout from Oct. 21 (Craig) through Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz), and an immature at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 5 (Blom) and Nov. 11 (Stasz).

Herons, Ibises, Vultures. Jim Stasz discovered an **American Bittern** at Terrapin Point Park on Oct. 25. Among the numerous **Great Blue Herons** were 21 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3 and Aug. 9, and 175 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 26 (Blom). **Great Egrets** included 31 at Loch Raven on Aug. 15 (Simon, Terry), and single late birds at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 9 (Iliff), Lake Elkhorn (Banks) and Upper Marlboro (Stasz) on Nov. 10, and at Millstone Landing Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz). Notable reports of **Snowy Egrets** were 109 at North Beach on Aug. 16 (Stasz), 1 at Kent Narrows on Nov. 2 (Boyd, Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Ocean City on Nov. 9 (N. & F. Saunders). Late **Little Blue Herons** were 1 at Scotland on Oct. 7 (Craig, Cribb), and 2 at West Ocean City on Nov. 9 (Graff). **Cattle Egrets** were 72 at Blackwater on Aug. 23 (H. Armistead), 60 near Salisbury on Sept. 12 and 40 near Cokesberry on Sept. 14 (Iliff, Stasz), 40 at Kent Island on Oct. 2 (Iliff), and 1 at Park Hall, St. Mary's County on Nov. 8 (Craig). Nine **Green Herons** were at Terrapin Pt. Park on Sept. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 11 (D. & P. Ecker, Wilkinson). Helen Zeichner listed 4 **Black-**

crowned Night-Herons at Wilde Lake on Aug. 4. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were not to be left out with 4 at Lilypons on Aug. 17 (Hershberger), and 3 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz). Kyle Rambo reported 14 **White Ibises** at PRNAS on Aug. 22, and two **Glossy Ibises** were at North Beach Aug. 18-19 (Stasz). Another Glossy was at Scotland on Sept. 12 (Craig). The high for **Black Vultures** was 150 at Brown's Station on Oct. 30 (Iliff). Black Vultures were found out west with 2 at Pinto on Nov. 9 (Iliff, Stasz), and in Garrett County, 4 were feeding on a dead deer along Bishop Road near Rt. 42 on Nov. 19 (Kevin Dodge), and 1 was near Paradise Point Road on Nov. 23 (Skipper). The high for **Turkey Vultures** was 140 at Ridgely on Sept. 25 (Iliff).

Geese, Swans. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was located near Centreville on Oct. 29 (Iliff), and Blackwater hosted one during Nov. 5-22 (Iliff, Welch, Smith+). Two others were at John Brown Road, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 26 (Iliff). **White Snow Geese** arrived with 1 at Blackwater on Sept. 20 (George & H. Armistead), and 2 at Westminster on Oct. 4 (Ringler). Single blues were at Blackwater on Sept. 20 (G. & H. Armistead), at Broadford Lake on Oct. 4 (Stasz), and 3 were at Redhouse on Nov. 8 (Iliff, Stasz). The high for Snow Geese was 8000 near Sudlersville on Nov. 2 (Iliff, Boyd, Stasz). Danny Bystrak reported a **Ross's Goose** flying north at North Beach on Oct. 18. An adult and a family group of 2 adults and 3 juvenile Ross's Geese were discovered near Snow Hill on Oct. 26 with 2 immature *Snow x Ross's* hybrids (Iliff, Stasz). Another Ross's was found near Starr on Oct. 29 (Iliff), and one, seen by many birders, was at Greenock from Nov. 20 through the end of the month (Iliff+). Blackwater hosted 2 Ross's Geese from about Nov. 2 to at least Nov. 5 (H. Armistead, Iliff+). Matt O'Donnell reported the first **Brant** with 5 at Sandy Point on Nov. 2, and 2 were at Piscataway on Nov. 16 (Green). **Canada Geese** included 216 at Loch Raven on Aug. 12 (Simon, Terry) and 1240 at Blackwater on Aug. 23 (H. Armistead). Quite a few of the small race were found, with single sightings on Oct. 25 at Wye Island (Stasz), Nov. 2 at Denton (Iliff, Boyd, Stasz), Nov. 18 near Centreville (Iliff), Nov. 20 at Piscataway Creek (Stasz), Nov. 20-29 at Greenock (Iliff+), Nov. 23 near Hughesville (Iliff, Stasz, Jett), Nov. 26 near Route 16, Dorchester County and at Central Sod Farm, Queen Anne's County (Iliff), and Nov. 28 off Oland Road, Frederick County (Hershberger). Steve Simon found 2 **Mute Swans** at Loch Raven on Aug. 19-26. Fifteen of the big birds were at Terrapin Pt. Park on Sept. 7, and a depressing 263 were tallied at Eastern Neck NWR on the same day (Iliff, Stasz). Other Mute Swans included 1 at Piney Run Park on Sept. 20 that was still present on Nov. 20 (Ringler, Nielsen), 150 at Neavitt on Oct. 5 (Reese), and 125 at the mouth of the Wye & Miles Rivers (Talbot/Queen Anne's) on Nov. 15 (Reese). **Tundra Swans** began with 2 at Tall Timbers on Sept. 30 (Carter), and 12 at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Oct. 5 (Hershberger). High counts were 298 at Rocky Gap on Nov. 16 (Iliff, Ryan Lesh, Stasz), and over 650 at Preston on Nov. 27 (Engle).

Puddle Ducks. Late **Wood Duck** reports included 8 at Queenstown on Nov. 22 (Reese) and 2 at Hashawha, Carroll County on Nov. 30 (Ringler). A **Wood Duck x Mallard** hybrid was reported at Centennial Lake, Oct. 15-25 (Schwarz, Kennan), and at Wilde Lake on Nov. 8 (Coskren). Mary Jordan reported an exotic **Mandarin Duck** near the zoo at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30. **Green-winged Teals** began with 1 at North Beach on Aug. 19 (Stasz). Higher numbers included 195 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 3 (Skipper) and 1000 in the greater Blackwater area on Nov. 5 (Iliff). Blom found over 200 **Mallards** at Havre de Grace on Oct. 11, Skipper tallied 325 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 18, and about 200 were at Bryans Road on Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz, Jett). **Northern Pintails** began with 1 at Easton on Sept. 6 and 2 at Remington Farms on Sept. 7 (Iliff, Stasz). The high for **Blue-winged Teals** was 250 at W. Libertytown, Worcester County on Sept. 14 (Iliff, Stasz), and a late one was at Lime Kiln Pond, Howard County on Nov. 29 (Wallace). **Northern Shovelers** kicked off with 1 at Redhouse

on Sept. 1 (Felton). Jan Reese found 75 Shovelers at Easton on Sept. 14, and George Jett tallied 170 at Hurlock on Oct. 15. Four **Gadwalls** were at Easton on Sept. 25, and 60 were at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iliff), and another 60 were at Bryans Road on Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz, Jett). Marshall Iliff took photos of an adult male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Brown's Station on Oct. 30, and the bird was still present and seen by others on Nov. 3. **American Wigeon** began with 3 at Loch Raven on Aug. 31 (Wheeler) and 6 at Easton on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz).

Aythya Ducks, Eiders, Harlequin Ducks, Oldsquaw. A summering **Canvasback** was still at Centennial on Aug. 31 (Coskren, Schwarz+), and 2 were at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 7 (D. Ecker). A summering female **Ring-necked Duck** was still present at Centennial on Aug. 31 (Schwarz, Kennan+). A female **Greater Scaup** was identified inland at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 8, and 25 were at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iliff, Stasz). A **Lesser Scaup** was at Unity on Oct. 6 (N. & F. Saunders). An immature male **King Eider** was at the Cambridge Marina from Nov. 22 into December (David Smith, Pitney+), and 3 **Harlequin Ducks** were found at the reliable Ocean City inlet beginning on Nov. 9 (Graff). **Oldsquaws** included 10 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12 (Reese), 14 in Garrett County on Nov. 8 (Iliff, Stasz), 8 at Lapidum, Harford County on Nov. 11 (Stasz), and 40 at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 25 (Pisano, Paul O'Brien).

Scoters and Other Diving Ducks. Marshall Iliff checked off 17 **Black Scoters** on the Choptank River opposite Kingston Landing on Oct. 20 for a first Caroline County record, and 3 **Surf Scoters** were also there. Black Scoters were found in good numbers in Western Maryland with 14 at Broadford Lake, 22 at Little Meadows Lake, and 239 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 8, and 1 at Edgemont Reservoir and 3 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 9 (Iliff, Stasz). Scarpulla found 2 Surf Scoters at Hart-Miller on Oct. 26. Reese found large counts in Talbot County on Nov. 2 with 350 at Tilghman Island and 1000 at Claiborne. A Surf Scoter visited Lapidum, Harford County on Nov. 8 (Eastman, Saunders), and farther inland, 6 were at Deep Creek Lake and 14 at Broadford Lake on Nov. 9 (Iliff, Stasz). About 800 Surf Scoters were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 15 (Craig). **White-winged Scoters** included 1 at Bivalve on Oct. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 3 at Conowingo on Nov. 7 (Blom), 1 at Lapidum on Nov. 8 (Eastman+), 4 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 8 and 1 at Brandywine on Nov. 22 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Rileys Lock, Montgomery County, Nov. 28-30 (Jane Whitaker, Henry Louie+). November 11 produced a major fallout of **Buffleheads**. In Howard County 85 were at Centennial and 88 at Triadelphia (Burley, Schwarz, Kennan); on the Susquehanna River 300 were at Conowingo and 300 at Lapidum (Stasz); in Carroll County 617 were at Piney Run, 52 at Liberty Lake, and 50 at Westminster Reservoir (Ringler); and in Washington County 108 Buffleheads were at Greenbrier SP (Weesner). Bob Ringler got the first **Hooded Merganser** this fall with one at Piney Run on Sept. 28. The first **Red-breasted Mergansers** were 16 at Grasonville on Nov. 3 (Reese). Iliff listed 75 Red-breasteds at Aberdeen on Nov. 20. Reese tallied over 1200 **Ruddy Ducks** at the mouth of the Wye and Miles Rivers on Nov. 15, and Dave Mozurkewich estimated 5000 at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 22.

Hawks, Eagles, Falcons. The latest **Osprey** was at Long Neck Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 23 (Iliff, Stasz). Interesting locations for **Bald Eagles** were Liberty Lake where 2 were spotted on Sept. 1 (Ringler), Broadford Lake where an adult was noted on Sept. 20 (Iliff, Stasz), and Deep Creek Lake where an adult was found on Nov. 3 (Skipper). Early **Northern Harriers** were 1 at Allens Fresh on Aug. 8 (Jett, Stasz), 1 at Ashton on Aug. 21 (Sussman), and 1 at Queenstown on Aug. 22 (Poet). Mary Jo Betts had a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in her Columbia yard on Aug. 2nd, and 21 were counted at Turkey Point on Aug. 31 (Griffith+). Jim Paulus tallied 63 Sharpies and 19 **Cooper's Hawks** at Town Hill on Oct. 10. Other Cooper's were

single sightings at McGinnes on Aug. 1 (Reese), at North Beach on Aug. 2 (Stasz), and at Hart-Miller on Aug. 23. At Town Hill, Jim Paulus checked off an immature **Northern Goshawk** on Oct. 8, 764 **Broad-winged Hawks**, in only two hours, on Sept. 16, and a dark-morph **Rough-legged Hawk** on Oct. 18. **Golden Eagles** were also listed with 1 at Lilypons on Oct. 12 (Hershberger) and 1 at Turkey Point on Nov. 14 (Griffith). Patty Craig noted a migrant female **American Kestrel** at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on Aug. 14, and **Merlins** began with single birds at North Beach on Aug. 19 (Stasz), in Waldorf on Sept. 1 (Jett), and one found injured at St. Michaels on Sept. 5 (Reese+). Six **Merlins** were checked off at Turkey Point on Sept. 13 (Griffith). Dave and Maureen Harvey had a nice sighting of a **Peregrine Falcon** at Hugg-Thomas WMA on Aug. 31. Three **Peregrines** were notched at Turkey Point on Sept. 13 (Griffith), and another was near Waldorf on Nov. 9 (Bishop).

Gallinaceous Birds, Rails, Coots, Sandhill Crane. **Ring-necked Pheasants** were scarce, but 2 were at Tall Timbers on Sept. 25 (Carter). **Wild Turkeys** included 15 near Cokesbury and 25 near Catchpenny Road, Wicomico County on Sept. 14 (Iliff, Stasz), 12 at Jug Bay on Sept. 27 (L. Klickner), and 14 at Hunting Creek Road, Calvert County on Oct. 16 (Jack Leighty). The only upland report for **Northern Bobwhite** was of 4 at Blair's Valley on Oct. 19 (Iliff, Stasz). Don Broderick saw a **Black Rail** at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Oct. 29, and a **King Rail** was at Chaptico on Sept. 27 (Stasz). Seven **Virginia Rails** were at Wetipquin on Oct. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), and 8 were marked off at Hart-Miller on Nov. 15 (Scarpulla, Cullison+). Out west, a **Virginia Rail** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 25 (Skipper), and Jim Stasz found an immature **Sora** at Broadford Lake on Sept. 20, and 2 **Soras** at Redhouse on Oct. 4. Easton Waste Water Treatment Plant hosted the high for **Common Moorhens** with 60 on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz). Six fledgling **American Coots** were discovered in a weedy impoundment at Easton on Aug. 10 (Levin Willey, Shirley Bailey). Other coots included 2 at Loch Raven on Aug. 26, 2000 there on Nov. 5 (Simon, Terry, Landers), 2000 at Piscataway Creek on Nov. 21 (Iliff, Stasz), and over 2600 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 18 (Skipper). A **Sandhill Crane** was reported flying southeast across Route 5 near Forest Park on Sept. 24 (Rambo).

Plovers, Avocets. There were 123 migrating **American Golden-Plovers** at Hanesville Road, Kent County on Sept. 7, and other highs reported by Iliff and Stasz included 53 at Doub's Turf Farm, Frederick County on Sept. 9, and 59 at Clark's Lane on Sept. 12. Jim and Marshall also noted 21 goldens at Taneytown on Sept. 19, and two juveniles near Lilypons on Nov. 7. The latest **Semipalmated Plover** was at Boonesboro on Oct. 19 (Iliff, Stasz). Among the numerous **Killdeer** reports were 450 at Cordova and 650 at Clark's Lane on Sept. 25 (Iliff). **American Avocets** made an appearance this fall with 1 near Gaithersburg on July 31 (Michael Welch), 2 at Blackwater on Oct. 25 (H. & M. Armistead+), and 1 there on Oct. 28 (Sally Wechsler).

Yellowlegs through Turnstones. The high for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 34 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz), and the last report was of 7 at Pomonkey on Nov. 23 (Jett+). Jim Stasz identified an eastern race, juvenile **Willet** on Aug. 1 at North Beach where 2 were on Aug. 19, and 1 to 2 juvenile western **Willet**s were there during Aug. 13-19 as well. Marshall Iliff saw a juvenile western race bird at Terrapin Pt. Park on Aug. 9. The high for **Spotted Sandpipers** was a nice count of 40 at Hurlock on Aug. 2, and the last report was of a late one at Easton on Nov. 18 (Iliff, Stasz). **Upland Sandpipers** were found on Aug. 2 with 4 at Cox Sawmill Road and 20 at Research Farm in Queen Anne's County, and 17 at Oakland Farm, Caroline County (Iliff, Stasz). Harry Armistead, Mark Hoffman, and Paul O'Brien found 14 **Whimbrels** at Assateague on Aug. 18, and 2 **Marbled Godwits** were located at North Beach on Aug. 12 (Stasz).

Calidridine Sandpipers. A Sanderling was at Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 4 (Stasz). The highs for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were 286 at Loch Raven on Aug. 2 (Simon, Jenkins), and 267 at North Beach on Aug. 14 (Stasz). A **Western Sandpiper** at Red House on Sept. 20 (Felton) was notable. **Least Sandpipers** running late were the last reports of 2 in Queen Anne's County near Route 213, and 1 at Brown's Station on Nov. 22 (Stasz, Iliff). The latest **White-rumped Sandpipers** were 1 at Tanyard on Nov. 26 (Iliff), and 1 at Liberty Lake on Nov. 30 (Ringler). Hart-Miller again hosted **Baird's Sandpipers** including 8 on Oct. 5th; others included 1 at Remington Farms on Sept. 7 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 11 (Blom). The high for **Pectoral Sandpipers** was 34 at North Beach on Aug. 18 (Stasz). Interesting **Dunlins** were 2 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 and 1 each at Funkstown and Blair's Valley on Oct. 19 (Stasz, Iliff), 60 at Tanyard on Nov. 5 and 40 there on Nov. 26 (Iliff), 21 at Conowingo on Nov. 7 (Blom), and 41 at Jug Bay on Nov. 18 (Swarth, Mumford). The latest **Stilt Sandpipers** were 1 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 4 (Ringler), and 11 near Grasonville on Oct. 8 (Iliff). It was a good year for nice-to-find **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** including 3 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 6 and 3 there on Oct. 5. Others reported by Iliff and Stasz included 1 at Hanesville Road, Kent County on Sept. 7, 1 at John Brown Road, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 7 and 3 there on Sept. 25, 1 at Mason-Dixon Farm on Sept. 9, 1 near Pleasant Valley on Sept. 20, 1 at Shady Oaks Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 24, and 2 at Clark's Lane, Caroline County on Sept. 25 and Sept. 28.

Dowitchers, Snipe, Phalaropes. The high for **Short-billed Dowitchers** was 59 at North Beach on Aug. 18 (Stasz), and 3 late birds were at Scotland on Sept. 29 (Rambo). On Sept. 7, single **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Terrapin Pt. Park and at Remington Farms (Iliff, Stasz), and another was at Horsehead on Sept. 25 (Sebastini). **Red-necked Phalaropes** were also checked off this fall with 3 tallied during the pelagic trip out of Ocean City on Aug. 17 (Patteson+), 1 at Fairmount WMA, Somerset County on Aug. 19 (Patsy & Eric Decker), and 1 at Ridgely on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz). **Red Phalaropes** were not to be left out, with 1 identified during the Aug. 17 pelagic trip, and a juvenile at Ridgely on Oct. 2 (Iliff).

Parasitic Jaeger; Gulls. A juvenile **Parasitic Jaeger** was reported at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 7 (Blom). Highs for **Laughing Gulls** included 2000 at PRNAS on Aug. 28 (Rambo), 3000 at the Route 213 Pond, Queen Anne's County on Oct. 20 (Iliff), and 8000 at Brown's Station on Nov. 3 (Iliff, Stasz). A first-winter **Franklin's Gull** was seen at Upper Marlboro on Nov. 3 (Stasz, Iliff) and was with a second-winter bird there on Nov. 18 (Stasz). Highs for **Bonaparte's Gull** were 600 at Conowingo Lake on Nov. 5 (Blom) and 400 at Back River on Nov. 20 (Iliff). George Jett tallied 1500 **Ring-billed Gulls** at the Charles County landfill on Nov. 8, and Rick Blom estimated 7500 at Conowingo Dam on Nov. 26. Single adult **Herring Gulls** were found at Deep Creek Lake and Grantsville on Nov. 8, and an immature was at Rocky Gap on Nov. 9 (Iliff, Stasz). A first-winter, fly-by **Thayer's Gull** was reported at the Charles County landfill on Nov. 21 (Iliff). Among the numerous **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** reported were 6 at Brown's Station on Oct. 30 and Nov. 13 (Iliff), 3 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 2 (Reese), and 1 at the Charles County landfill on Nov. 8 (Jett). A **Glaucous Gull** was reported from PRNAS on Aug. 26 (Rambo), and another at Bay Ridge on Nov. 18 (Iliff). The many **Great Black-backed Gulls** included 320 at PRNAS on Aug. 13 (Rambo), and 1107 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 23.

Terns, Doves, Cuckoos, Swifts. An adult **Gull-billed Tern** was seen flying over the marsh at Terrapin Pt. Park on Aug. 16 (Stasz). Harry Armistead found 3 **Sandwich Terns** at Assateague on Aug. 16, and 4 were at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz). A **Forster's Tern** was inland at Greenbrier SP on Aug. 26 (Weesner), and Eastman reported 6 late birds at Havre de Grace

on Nov. 23. Marty Cribb and Patty Craig reported 15 **Black Terns** at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 23, and 2 there on Sept. 30. Craig tallied 112 **Mourning Doves** at Scotland on Aug. 14, and Iliff listed 200 at Lilypons on Sept. 9. Kyle Rambo reported a **Black-billed Cuckoo** at Hollywood on Aug. 5, and 1 was banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 13. Bill Scudder tallied 700 **Chimney Swifts** at Greensboro on Sept. 20, 350 were at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 25 (Stasz), and 300 were in Washington County on Oct. 3 (Stasz).

Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. A **Rufous Hummingbird** was reported in Caroline County near Federalsburg, off-and-on from Sept. 10 through at least Sept. 21 (Ross Robinson+). An **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 1 (Skipper), and 2 were banded there, one on Aug. 26 and one on Sept. 8. Ed Boyd encountered an Olive-sided in Carroll County at Marriottsville on Sept. 20, and another was found at Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore on Sept. 28 (Steve Sanford). The **Eastern Wood-Pewee** at Denton on Oct. 31 (Nuttle) was extraordinarily late, and the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** found by Norm and Fran Saunders in Dorchester County on Aug. 9 was a little early. An **Alder Flycatcher** was heard calling several times at Upper Marlboro on Sept. 8 (Iliff). The last **Eastern Kingbirds** were one each at Tall Timbers on Sept. 26 (Carter), and at Tanyard on Oct. 3 (Engle).

Vireos, Corvids, Horned Larks. Dotty Mumford found a late **White-eyed Vireo** at Jug Bay on Nov. 18. A late **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Aberdeen on Nov. 20 (Iliff). Running late were the single **Yellow-throated Vireos** found on Oct. 5 at Woodmont Road, Washington County (Stasz), and at Patuxent River Park, Montgomery County (Sussman), and the single **Warbling Vireos** at Morgantown Road, Charles County on Sept. 22 and at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Jett, Stasz, Iliff). Four **Philadelphia Vireos** were banded for the season at Cherry Creek with the first one on Sept. 1. A late **Red-eyed Vireo** was banded at PWRC on Nov. 5 (Deanna Dawson). **Blue Jays** flying south at Woodmont Road, Washington County on Oct. 5 numbered 400 (Stasz), and Jan Reese estimated over 700 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12. High counts of **Fish Crows** included 400 at Brown's Station on Sept. 24 and again on Nov. 22, and 200 at Smith Island on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz). An albino Fish Crow was noted at Alpha Ridge Park on Nov. 2 (Kerwin). Jim Paulus viewed 9 **Common Ravens** at Town Hill on Oct. 18.

Swallows. Purple Martins running late included 105 at Vienna on Sept. 20 (G. & H. Armistead), and 2 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 5. A late **Tree Swallow** was at Merkle WMA on Nov. 13 (Iliff). Marshall Iliff found late **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** with 2 at the Route 309 ponds on Nov. 18, and 2 at Jug Bay on Nov. 19. An amazing 6000 **Bank Swallows** were at Hurlock on Aug. 16 (Stasz), and 1000 were at Hart-Miller on Sept. 13, where the last 2 were found on Oct. 26. The last **Cliff Swallow** was at Easton on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz), and the high for **Barn Swallows** was 300 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 13. An albino Barn Swallow was reported at Conowingo on Sept. 5. (Eastman), and a late Barn Swallow was at Wilde Lake on Oct. 21 (Betts).

Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** began early with the first in Caroline County on Aug. 11 (Nuttle), where 2 others were on Sept. 19 (Glime), increasing to over 50 at Smithville on Nov. 2 (Scudder). Liberty Watershed also hosted over 50 on Nov. 28 (Boyd, Stasz). A **Brown-headed Nuthatch** was found at Horsehead on Sept. 9 (Sebastini). Eighteen migrating **House Wrens** were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 18 (Craig). Two **Marsh Wrens** were found out west at Pinto on Sept. 21, and another at Blair's Valley on Oct. 5 (Stasz, Iliff). Five Marsh Wrens were banded at Cherry Creek from Sept. 25 to Oct. 12. The high for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** was 50 at Dameron on Oct. 11 and again on Oct. 22 (Craig), and for **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers**, 12 at Terrapin Pt. Park on Aug. 9 (Iliff), and 20 at

Tilghman Island on Aug. 10 (Reese). Norm and Fran Saunders discovered a very late Blue-gray at Cornfield Harbor on Nov. 29.

Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits, Starlings. The first **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Daniels on Sept. 20 (Stirrat), and another was at Parsonsburg on Sept. 21 (Pitney). Others included 4 at Allens Fresh on Sept. 27 (Iliff, Stasz), 4 at Accident on Oct. 4 (Stasz), and 5 at Waldorf on Oct. 5 (Jett). Solitary **Bicknell's Thrushes** were identified at Glissan's Mill Road, Frederick County on Sept. 27 (Hershberger), and banded at Jug Bay on Oct. 17 (Bystrak). Two **Hermit Thrushes** were a tad early in southeastern Carroll County on Sept. 20 (Boyd). Jan Reese estimated over 6000 **American Robins** congregated at Easton on Nov. 18, and Jim Stasz discovered 2 **Northern Mockingbirds** at Deep Creek Lake, an unusual location for this species, on Oct. 4. **American Pipits** were very early with 1 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 12, and 2 at Triadelphia on Sept. 12 (Stasz). The highs were 75 at UMCF on Oct. 18 (Ott+), and 65 at Easton on Nov. 18 (Iliff, Stasz). Marshall Iliff estimated that about 3000 **European Starlings** were thronged together at Mason-Dixon Farm on Sept. 9, and a flock of about 1500 was at Lexington Park, St. Mary's County on Oct. 3 (Craig).

Warblers. The first migrant **Blue-winged Warbler** was at Queenstown on Aug. 17 (Poet). Fred Burggraf reported a **Lawrence's Warbler** at Dentsville on Sept. 11. Six solitary **Orange-crowned Warblers** were reported for the fall: Frederick Watershed on Sept. 12 (Hershberger), Dameron on Sept. 16 (Craig), Deep Creek Lake on Oct. 4 (Stasz), Rock Creek Park on Oct. 11 (Hilton, Janni, Pisano), Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iliff), and at Centennial on Nov. 11 (D. & P. Ecker). The last **Yellow Warblers** were singles on Sept. 27 at Pt. Lookout and Smith Island (Iliff, Stasz). Norm Saunders checked off 18 **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 28. Migrant **Yellow-throated Warblers** were few, with 2 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 10 (Reese), and 1 in St. Mary's County on Oct. 12 (Carter), the extreme dates. Twenty-five **Palm Warblers** were notched at UMCF on Oct. 18 (Ott+), and 58 of the western race were banded at Cherry Creek from Sept. 6 through Oct. 11. Palm Warblers of the yellow race included 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 30 and 23 there on Oct. 18, and 25 at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iliff). Those identified as the western race also included 6 in the Pleasant Valley area on Sept. 20 (Iliff, Stasz), 6 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 18, and singles at Long Neck Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 23 and at Skeleton Creek Road, Caroline County on Nov. 26 (Iliff, Stasz). The only **Cerulean Warbler** report was the one at Assateague on Aug. 18 (H. Armistead, M. Hoffman, P. O'Brien). Patty Craig and Bob Boxwell found the most **Black-and-white Warblers** with 20 at Pt. Lookout SP on Sept. 5, as well as the last **American Redstart** there on Oct. 28. The final **Northern Waterthrush** reports were 1 at Tall Timbers on Oct. 19 (Carter), and 1 at Jug Bay on Nov. 4 (Mumford). There were few **Louisiana Waterthrushes** this season; Marty Cribb found a late one at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 12. There were 10 **Mourning Warbler** reports this fall, and 6 **Connecticut Warblers** were banded at Cherry Creek from Sept. 7 through Oct. 4. **Wilson's Warblers** ended with 1 at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Oct. 19 (Ott).

Cardinaline Finches, Dickcissels, Sparrows. The single **Blue Grosbeaks** at Ninetown Road, Caroline County on Oct. 20 and at Easton on Oct. 29 (Iliff) were a little late, as was the last **Indigo Bunting** at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 20 (Craig). Two **Dickcissels** were still at Lilypons on Aug. 3 (Saunders), and 1 was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 13. **American Tree Sparrows** commenced with 2 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 19 (Ott), and Connie Skipper found 1 at Blakeslee, Garrett County on Nov. 3. The high counts for **Chipping Sparrows** were 60 at Wheaton on Oct. 25 (Saunders) and 60 at Port Tobacco on Nov. 2 (Jett). Three solitary **Clay-colored Sparrows** were identified this fall: near Cohill, for the first Washington County record, on Oct. 5

(Stasz), at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 14 (Craig), and an immature in Caroline County on Oct. 18 (Stasz). Danny Poet found a **Field Sparrow** nest with 4 eggs at the Wye Research Center in Queenstown on Aug. 6. Two **Savannah Sparrows** were noted at Clark's Lane on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz), and others included 58 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 11, 40 at PRNAS on Oct. 16 (Craig), 100 at UMCF on Oct. 18 (Ott+), and 60 at Mason-Dixon Farm on Oct. 19 (Iliff, Stasz). The last reports for **Grasshopper Sparrows** were 1 at Sideling Hill Creek, Allegany County on Oct. 5 (Stasz), 1 at Audrey Carroll AS on Oct. 11 (Hershberger), 2 at Hope Road, Queen Anne's County on Oct. 18 (Stasz), 1 at Ninetown Road, Caroline County on Oct. 20 (Iliff), and 1 at Millington on Nov. 2 (Stasz). Single **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were identified this season at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 27 (Gaskill, Iliff, Stasz), at Easton on Oct. 13 (Les Coble), at Assateague on Oct. 14 (Pisano, Janni), at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 18 (Iliff) and Oct. 25 (Stasz), and at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 23 (Boxwell, Craig). An early **Fox Sparrow** was banded at Cherry Creek, on Oct. 5. The high counts for **Song Sparrows** were 118 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 18, 175 at UMCF on the same day (Ott+), and 100 at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iliff). **Lincoln's Sparrow** reports included 1 at Jug Bay on Sept. 6 (Bystrak), 3 at Pinto on Sept. 21 (Iliff, Stasz), 3 at Unger Road, Carroll County on Oct. 11 (Boyd, Stasz), 2 at Blair's Valley on Oct. 19 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Jug Bay on Nov. 3 (Bystrak). A **Swamp Sparrow** was at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 14 (D. Ecker), 40 were at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Oct. 19 (Ott), 35 were at Terrapin Pt. Park on Oct. 20 (Iliff), and 120 were near the Nanticoke River in Wicomico County on Oct. 26 (Iliff, Stasz). There were 395 Swamp Sparrows banded at Cherry Creek from Aug. 23 through Oct. 18. The numerous **White-throated Sparrow** reports included 250 at Wye Island on Oct. 25 (Stasz).

Longspurs, Snow Buntings, Bobolinks, Cardueline Finches. A Lapland Longspur was a nice treat for Gene Scarpulla and party at Hart-Miller on Nov. 15. Snow Buntings included 1 heard at Brown's Station on Nov. 13 (Iliff), 2 at Rocky Gap on Nov. 29 (Pisano, Janni), and 54 at Hart-Miller the same day. No males were seen in a flock of 150 **Bobolinks** at Scotland on Aug. 14 (Craig). Other large gatherings of Bobolinks included 300 at Easton on Sept. 4 (Reese), and 300 at Hurlock on Sept. 6 (Iliff, Stasz), with the final report of 7 near Talbot's Landing, Howard County on Oct. 22 (Ralph Geuder). An early **Purple Finch** turned up at Great Mills on Sept. 4 (Lisa Lister); another was at Rising Sun on Sept. 14 (Scott Powers). Jan Reese estimated about 350 **House Finches** at Bellevue on Oct. 26. A few **Red Crossbills** were found this fall including 1 at Centennial on Nov. 2 (Betts, Orr, Kerwin+), 1 heard at PWRC on Nov. 12 (Iliff), 1 near Old Neck Road, Cecil County on Nov. 15 (Griffith), 1 at PWRC/N on Nov. 19 (Iliff), 6 near Trotter Road, Howard County on Nov. 21 (Aelred Geis), and 3 at New Germany SP on Nov. 29 (Pisano, Janni). Also making an appearance were 8 **White-winged Crossbills** at Turkey Point on Nov. 14 (Griffith), and 8 at Germantown on Nov. 25 (Czaplak). Michael Bowen reported a **Common Redpoll** in Ocean City on Nov. 9, and Dave Harvey tallied about a dozen **Pine Siskins**, for the first of the season, at Hugg-Thomas WMA on Oct. 4. The high for Pine Siskins was 50 at Elkton on Nov. 14 (Griffith). **Evening Grosbeaks** began with 90 at Town Hill on Oct. 21 (Paulus), and 18 on Nov. 5 at Price Road Pond, Harford County and 25 the same day at Conowingo Lake (Blom). Connie Skipper found 30 Evening Grosbeaks near Oakland on Nov. 14.

Corrigendum: The 10 Lapland Longspurs and 50 Snow Buntings found by Doug Lister on Nov. 26, 1995 (Volume 53, No. 1) were actually at PRNAS, not at Point Lookout.

HAWK MIGRATION AT WASHINGTON MONUMENT STATE PARK FALL 1997

COMPILED BY DAVE WEESNER

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	8/30	11/3	117	17 on 9/19, 14 on 9/12
Bald Eagle	9/6	11/16	21	3 on 9/13, 3 on 10/30
Northern Harrier	9/6	11/26	51	4 on 9/19, 10/11 & 10/31
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/25	11/23	806	130 on 10/13, 87 on 9/19
Cooper's Hawk	9/1	11/12	82	13 on 10/10, 11 on 10/11
Northern Goshawk	10/30	11/4	2	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/16	11/23	61	15 on 11/11
Broad-winged Hawk	8/25	10/11	1900	1487 on 9/19, 117 on 9/14
Red-tailed Hawk	8/30	12/6	944	129 on 11/10, 103 on 11/11
Rough-legged Hawk			0	
Golden Eagle	11/2	11/25	6	2 on 11/19, 2 on 11/16
American Kestrel	8/29	10/20	45	6 on 10/10, 5 on 9/21
Merlin	9/7	10/31	4	
Peregrine Falcon	9/13	11/12	14	3 on 9/28
Unidentified			97	
TOTAL (79 days, 354 hours)	8/15	12/6	4,150	1611 on 9/19, 166 on 10/13

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